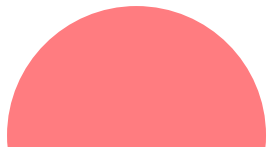


1. Name of SOA case study
Employability Orkney – Restart Orkney
2. What was the local need addressed by this SOA case study?
<p>The Local Outcome being addressed by this case study is: Orkney’s people and businesses achieve their full potential on a long term, sustainable basis</p> <p>This project has a Social, Environmental and Economic purpose:</p> <p>Social: Working with partner agencies to provide low cost furniture and household goods, providing floor coverings to homeless people to enable them to take up a tenancy.</p> <p>Environmental: Restore and recycle furniture within Orkney so it can be re-used rather than disposed of.</p> <p>Economic: Providing sustainable employment experience and opportunities to those furthest from the labour market.</p>
3. What was done – and by which partners?
Employability Orkney established supported employment, training and volunteering opportunities within its furniture re-use business, Restart Orkney. The Social Enterprise provides an otherwise unavailable source of pre-used furniture and household goods for local people living on a low income or benefits. The volunteers and supported employees are





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involved in every aspect of the running of the business and are key to the effective delivery of its services. Agencies such as Jobcentre Plus, Voluntary Action Orkney, Orkney Blide Trust, OIC Social Services, Criminal Justice and St Colm's Day Centre all refer clients who have been given training, work placements, and supported employment within Restart Orkney, some of whom have progressed into other employment with the support of Employability Orkney's supported employment services.

4. What is the evidence of the benefits for communities – or if the benefits are still to be delivered, what is the timeline for that?

Evidence is best demonstrated by real stories:

Jason's Story:

'I had been on Incapacity Benefit for 15 years when I started at Restart Orkney as a volunteer. At the same time I was attending interviews with a Condition Management Practitioner at Jobcentre Plus. Restart Orkney offered me a 16 hour a week job but I was unsure about three things:

1. Work – I enjoyed volunteering at Restart Orkney but felt I may not be fit enough for a job of 16 hours a week. Speaking with my Condition Management Practitioner about pain management she helped me identify ways to tackle other medical problems that I had, that made it easier for me to take part in things and led to my confidence increasing.
2. Health – I had good days and bad days and didn't want to let my employer down. Restart Orkney were very understanding and flexible and allowed me to give it a try and supported me in making it work.
3. Money – Could I afford to have my Incapacity Benefit reduced? After many interviews with the Jobcentre Plus I heard about the various financial packages available to help me to return to work. This helped me make my decision to start paid work. I received a job grant and took a course on Portable Appliance Testing and am now a qualified tester.

Since starting work I'm more easy going and happier. I'm now spending more time with my son fixing his bike and things like that. Getting people back to work is a good thing!

Keith's story: (not real name)

I was homeless, a heroin addict and lived on the streets for 8 years. After starting a course of recovery Restart Orkney took me on as a volunteer. With the support of Employability Orkney staff I am now employed 30 hours a week and living in my own house.

Other benefits:

Restart Orkney helps local people access recycled and restored furniture and household goods at low cost, whilst having the added social benefit of supporting people with employment opportunities. This is a service particularly of use to those living in poverty or those struggling financially. The current recession increases the need for such a service. It has enabled homeless people or those threatened with homelessness to take up tenancies they otherwise could not, as Homes are provided without furniture or floor coverings, and obtaining these are a condition of tenancy.

Statistics:

From April 08 to March 09:

Number of volunteers supported: **31**

Number of people securing employment within Restart Orkney: **5**

Number of households supported: **103**

Number of items of furniture recycled: **642**

Landfill diversion: **20 tonnes**

5. What added value has the SOA process brought to the delivery of these benefits?

The added value is partnership working.

Employability Orkney is not only increasing supported employment opportunities within Restart Orkney and hence contributing to National Outcome 2 but it is also working in partnership with Orkney Island Council's Development and Environment Service to help them achieve their targets set out in the local Area Waste Plan; also with the local authority Housing Department to prevent homelessness and tenancy breakdown by providing a direct service for their clients.

6. What next steps are you taking to meet this local need?

We are expanding services within Restart Orkney to include a retail outlet, recycling of IT equipment and a painting and decorating service. This is primarily for first time tenancies referred by OIC Housing. They will receive training in how to make a house a home and hopefully reduce tenancy breakdown in the future.

All of the above will increase further employment, training and volunteering opportunities.

Contact details of lead officer.

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