

March 2013

***This is
Berkshire
Scout
Enterprises
Ltd***



serving the community

Scouting

Serving the Community

Berkshire Scout Enterprises
was formed in 1985
by Adult Members of the Scout Association
in response to growing unemployment
amongst young people

SURVIVAL - NEW CHALLENGES AHEAD

In our latest newsletter I said that the company was on the brink. Various government decisions had left us struggling for funds and we were forced to make large scale redundancy and downsize our office accommodation. The new arrangements meant that contracts were handed to larger concerns and small providers like ourselves have to live off the scraps. We were left with some relatively minor projects and it was difficult to see that we could continue for much longer.

However, the liquidation of Scout Enterprises Western has opened a new opportunity for us. We have responded by forming a new company, which we wholly own, named Support Worker Limited. Although there is a slight departure from the original focus of our company which was the training of unemployed people, those with disabilities or otherwise disadvantaged in the labour market, to be ready for work, it is directly involved in keeping people in work. Further more we feel that it does not only benefit those who are working with a disability but that it is also to the benefit to the whole of society, to keep able people, for that's what they are, in employment. Full details are given below as well as why we have separated it from BSEL. I feel sure that members will support us in this new venture.

Alan K B Beavis OBE - Chairman

SUPPORT WORKER LTD

For those working with a disability

Support Worker is our new company which provides support workers to people who are working with a disability. The support workers carry out those functions that they are unable to carry out because of their disability.

The Paralympics 2012 showed that people with disabilities can so often achieve things which have sometimes been considered unobtainable. There are times however when they need a little help, such as the bladed runners.

The same goes for everyday life. Many people with disabilities have a great deal to offer but some need a little help to fulfil their potential. This is where a support worker comes in. If you look on our Support Worker website, under examples, you will see not only some of the roles undertaken by people with

disabilities but also the tasks fulfilled by support workers to allow them to continue in work.

A key role of our new company is to recruit and employ competent and suitable support workers. These people will of course need to be paid; some may be working more than 40 hours per week. In some cases this money will come from the person with the disability or their employer but more likely it will come from the government's Access to Work scheme.

This means that Support Worker Ltd will have to take care of payment arrangements, NI contributions and other administration and Access to Work claims where this is appropriate.

We have at present ten satisfied clients and we confidently expect this number to increase. We will be looking to appoint a manager for the business whose role will not only be to manage the company but to ensure that it grows.

The money we receive for this service is not funded in the way as has been for previous contracts and it would also mean that we would reach the limit when we have to pay VAT. This is the reason we have formed a separate company, wholly owned by us, so that we would not be liable for VAT on the other services that we provide. For full details go to www.supportworkerse.co.uk



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SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

MODERN DAY APPRENTICESHIPS

work based learning for a skilled workforce

Older members will remember apprenticeships as a form of indenture that young boys entered on leaving school. It probably lasted for five years and more often than not was in some branch of engineering or in the construction industry.

Today the word has a very different meaning. Apprenticeships are now described as work based learning, designed around the needs of employers, which lead to national recognised qualifications (usually NVQs). They can be used to train both new and existing employees and are available not only for young staff but also for adults.

The apprenticeship scheme has proved an excellent opportunity for businesses to develop a skilled workforce, leading to higher productivity and staff retention. Government figures show that 88% of employers believe that apprenticeships lead to a more motivated and satisfied workforce.

We are in partnership with Buckingham County Council to provide apprenticeships with much of our work being involved with those working in care homes. We are currently offering training for apprenticeships in Customer Service, Health and Social Care, Management and Team Leading. Conducting this training for us is Alan Hester, assisted by Jacqueline Meakes.

SKILLS SUPPORT FOR REDUNDANCY

getting those made redundant back to work

This is a programme for those who are experiencing or facing redundancy or who have been out of work for less than six months. It provides support, training and mentoring during this period, with the objective of improving employability with new skills and updating CVs.

We are currently offering training in a range of occupations, skills and sectors including, Management, Customer Service, Health and Social Care and Self Development.

We are in partnership with Chichester College for this programme which is fully funded by the European Social Fund. It is managed for us by Alan Hester with assistance from Jacqueline Meakes. – enquiries@bsel.org.uk

BIONIC



Bionic is a government funded programme for young people who are not at present in employment, education, or training, known as NEETS. We are in partnership with NACRO who have opened a Building Trades Workshop in Bracknell. They offer these young people Foundation to Learning courses in the Construction Industry helping them to gain the CSCS Card by proving training and practical experience.

Our role, carried out by Cathryn Knight, is to collect those living in Reading who are registered for their course and transporting them to Bracknell and back. These trainees are then registered on our Bionic programme for funding accreditation.

JOB CLUB

In association with Graft – Thames Valley we are running a Job Club at Northcourt Avenue on Mondays. It will also run on some Wednesdays according to need. This is run for us by Pat Farr and the purpose is to help unemployed people with disabilities to find work.



UK ONLINE COMPUTER TRAINING

The success of our UK Online computer training centre at Northfield Avenue has meant that this has been extended and is run for small groups, up to six people, young and old. Customised help and support with internet and email as well as some of the everyday programmes such as Microsoft Word and Excel Spreadsheets.

SUPPORTING SCOUTING



Locally

Berkshire County Scout Council

We have negotiated a new agreement with Berkshire County Scout Council and we have welcomed to Gravelly Court, Karen Thurlow who is the new County Administrator. As well as her other duties, Karen will be undertaking the administration of First Response courses and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which has previously been carried out on our behalf by Suzanne Stout together with Gift Aid and MIDAS, the mini bus drivers training, which we will continue to organise.

In this respect we would like to thank Suzanne for all her work over the last ten years whilst she has been with us. We are pleased to say that she will continue to act as our Company Secretary.

Later this year we will also be providing office accommodation and necessary employment and supporting services for a new Local Development Officer for Berkshire County Scout Council at Gravelly Court.

Minibus and van available

Our minibus and van can be made available for use by Scout & Guide groups. enquiries@bsel.org.uk Tel 0118 9884077

Nationally

Scout and Guide Fellowship UK

In 2012 we hosted the inaugural meeting of the Scout & Guide Fellowship UK along with the National Scout & Guide Fellowship AGM. This is a member organisation of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship for those in the UK who wish to pursue the ideals of international Scouting. We have since provided advertising and membership application leaflets as well as a new website www.sagf.org.uk

Internationally

International Scout Active

Support - ISAS

Wild in Botswana

Two teams of Explorer and Network Scouts and Leaders spent 5 weeks in Northern Botswana working with local Botswana Scouts, creating a campsite and training centre. The land was given by the Botswana government but it would be taken back if not used. The main project was to build a 40'x60' hall with toilets, storage room and kitchen plus an ablution block. We assisted the International Scout Active Support with the

provision of storage for equipment and goods prior to the event and a working party to load the container for onward transmission. The primary objective was the development of the young people who took part.

Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members from Devon plan to travel to Botswana in 2014 to continue the excellent work undertaken by Wild in Botswana during 2012

UK – Uganda Network Reunion

We also hosted the UK – Uganda Network reunion on behalf of the ISAS at Gravelly Court in November.

Bulangira Disables Association

As a result of Uganda 2000, the Company joined a partnership with the BDA Project Team, the Uganda Scouts Association and the Friends of Scouting, to provide a vocational workshop for the Bulangira Disables Association, which also supports a 22 strong Scout Group. It provides work for its disabled members and aims to be self sufficient. The land was purchased and the completed workshop handed over to the Association and further improvements have since been made.