



Future Jobs Fund

Case study - Beam, Wakefield

Wakefield-based Beam is dedicated to helping people make better places. The company's remit is wide, covering learning and education, the promotion of good design and imaginative public use of the arts.

Like many arts organisations, the recession has impacted on available finance. Beam saw opportunities it wanted to pursue, but did not have staff to support its managers in delivering the current workload, and allow them to explore potential new avenues.

The local council were preparing a bid for the Future Jobs Fund, and Beam, on behalf of a number of arts organisations in the city, approached the Arts Officer to explore the possibility of a partnership. The bid submitted by Wakefield Council will employ 700 individuals, involving more than 30 employers, with 6 of these from the arts sector.

Beam bid for two new members of staff. Deputy Director Stephen Dolman explains what inspired Beam to try it: "We needed to support our managers but we couldn't afford to employ someone in the current financial climate. The Future Jobs Fund seemed to offer a win-win scenario"

The new administrative roles focus on the exhibition space, conference facilities and the company's outreach programme. Beam has decided to take on the staff at different times which will help them to train and manage employees who could be completely new to the world of work.

“To work with an organisation like a local council is really the easiest and most economical way of going about it,” Stephen says. “It helps create a support network, for the organisation and the recruits. Some of the training and induction is delivered across the programme.”

Wakefield’s bid was submitted to the Department for Work and Pensions in July. Beam’s first recruit was in place in November.

“It’s great because we’ve recruited people who would not normally think of applying for an arts job,” says Stephen. “Cathy, who started in November, has been a great addition to the team and we’d certainly think about recruiting again through the Future Jobs Fund.”

www.beam.uk.net

Future Jobs Fund

If you have a new vacancy that can start quickly and will benefit the local community you could be eligible for up to £6,500 towards training and wages from the Future Jobs Fund.

Over 170,000 jobs are set to be created and paid for – and 10,000 of those are in the culture and sport sectors.

A fund of around £1 billion will help to generate new jobs, particularly for 18-24 year olds who have been out of work for more than six months.

To find out more visit the DCMS website at www.dcms.gov.uk or contact your local Government Office.