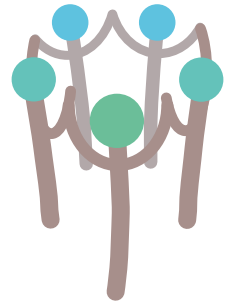


West Sussex Social Enterprise



CASE STUDY

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Restyle

For more details about this project:

Contact:
Julie Corrie

Telephone:
01243 786321

Email:
Julie.Corrie@chichester.ac.uk

For information about the context:

Contact:
Richard McMann

Telephone:
01243 786321

Email:
Richard.mcmann@arun.gov.uk

Chichester College, working in partnership with Arun District Council, has set up an exciting painting and decorating enterprise called Restyle.

The idea for the project came from Arun District Council which was looking for projects to support residents in disadvantaged communities and help them access services they might not otherwise be able to access or afford. Arun District Council felt that, instead of students on painting and decorating courses repainting one of the College's workshop walls time and again, they could paint real walls, delivering their training and skills.

The idea was discussed at a Chichester College Business Breakfast meeting. Chichester College was attracted to both the idea and the opportunities for their students and they embraced the challenge. The College felt that students who were studying Decorative Occupational courses would benefit far more if they were able to apply their skills in a real working environment.

After 6 months of meetings looking at matching the needs of the students, the requirements of the course and the potential clients, the College was ready to present its ideas to potential referral agencies. The referral agencies were excited by the idea and Arun District Council offered Restyle a contract to decorate the homes of 10 vulnerable people in Bognor Regis as a pilot programme. Age Concern also provided a referral for the pilot stage and many other referral agencies expressed interest in the programme.



Where Next?

For the College:

- Reviewing the results of the pilot programme.
- Exploring the potential of expanding the idea for other College Courses (e.g. Construction, Care, Horticulture etc.)
- Replicating the idea in other Colleges.

For Arun District Council:

- Exploring the potential of a similar venture with patients with mental health problems undertaking gardening work around doctors' surgeries.
- Offering an alternative to GP referral schemes which can be unappealing to those uncomfortable with formal physical training environments.



Chichester College



This case study has been compiled by West Sussex County Council for the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group with the express permission of the project. For more information on the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group - Contact 01243 777606

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