

# RENEW Weston - 'Working Well'



RENEW Weston, in partnership with Race Equality North Somerset (RENS), developed a campaign aiming to successfully demonstrate the feasibility of an employment model that enabled those from marginalised groups (e.g. refugees, long term unemployed, those in post-addiction recovery, etc) to gain practical work experience that, over time, would enable them to gain full time work.

Their Community Grant funded an Employment Development Worker, who provided in-depth support to 8 people, including creating personal development plans, measuring improvements in wellbeing, supporting employability skills, and moving people off-benefits and into permitted work and/or volunteering.

## UKSPF Achievements

- 1 project completed
- 8 people engaged with in-depth back-to-work support.

## Wider impact

The work enabled RENEW to establish itself in a more secure and sustainable position, as a unique new provision in Weston. It has supported the development of a core team at RENEW that will deliver ongoing activities and build new collaborative partnerships with the aim of enabling more people to achieve their aspirations in work.

The project has also enabled RENEW to develop three distinct strands: Furniture Upcycling, Nature Craft and Fabric Re-use, RENEW plans to extend its commercial activities this summer to include gardening and painting and decorating. These activities will make a significant contribution to securing the sustainability of RENEW in the longer term.

There have been some very positive outcomes for those supported. For example:

*[X] joined RENEW 6 months ago on a work placement from Weston College. Initially very shy, talking mainly about his current and pending diagnoses of various*

*neuro-diverse conditions, he had major difficulties with timekeeping and attendance for some time. After working for several months in the furniture section he is now chatty and proud of his proficiency at detailed work. He is now being encouraged to make enquiries about attending training at Aardman Animation.*