

## OPPORTUNITIES FIFE PARTNERSHIP - CASE STUDY

### Employability Project at Fife Migrants Forum (FMF)

With the help of a Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) Employability Grant (£5,000 received in February 2013), the Fife Migrants Forum (FMF) set up a 'Job Club' for clients from the migrant and minority ethnic communities. Attendees are referred through a Jobcentre Plus (covering the whole of Fife), partner agencies or self-referred.

### FMF Job Club went live on 02/04/2013

- No of sessions to date: **33**
- No of attendees to date: **56**
- No of clients passed to Fife Council's 'Client Action Team' for employability support to date: **5**

Daily Advice Clinic also identifies a number of employment related cases, where case workers provide clients with an appropriate support: CV writing, job search, advice about local job market, skills development opportunities etc.

### From statistics since April 2013 to date:

- No of clients helped into employment: **30**
- No of clients helped into further education: **25**
- No of CVs prepared and updated: **70**
- No of volunteers helped into employment: **6**

Majority Nationality: Polish

Other Nationalities: Lithuanian, Hungarian, Latvian, Greek, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Czech, Slovak, American, Chinese, Thai

### Client Case study:

AG is a 26 year old female referred to FMF by the Jobcentre, Leven. AG was new to Fife and has been in the UK less than 3 months. She had been unable to find employment and was getting frustrated with the lack of opportunities.

During her appointment at FMF, the case worker revised her CV and used NARIC\* to convert her qualification to the British equivalent. Her CV was updated to match UK CV standards. The case worker gave her a list of relevant agencies and pointed out areas of possible future training. AG was also given information about Credit Unions and offered advice on becoming self-employed and using the FMF office to advertise her future business.

A week later, a vacancy was brought to the attention of FMF staff and AG's name was mentioned as a potential employee. After phoning her, AG's CV was emailed to the employer and she was invited for an interview and was successful.

In a follow up appointment recently, AG has expressed her enjoyment at finding very suitable employment and is thriving in her post.

AG was so impressed with the work FMF does, she asked to be a volunteer and give some of her time to helping Fife Migrants Forum.

Conclusion:

Fairer Scotland Fund employability funding has had a sustainable impact on the project. It was also used as match funding for additional, smaller funding applications (i.e. Job Centre Plus, Russel Trust, LEADER Plus) which helped sustain the project beyond March 2013.

According to a survey by Fife Voluntary Action carried in September 2013, Fife Migrants Forum Employability Project is the only Third Sector employability project in Fife specifically targeting clients from the local migrant and ethnic minority background (term MIGRANTS refers to people from all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds).

Future activity:

Existing weekly FMF Job Club will continue, as part of the one stop shop (Welfare Rights advice, Financial Inclusion, Housing Advice) approach in providing early intervention and support the local community experiencing multiple barriers with the intention of securing further FSF funding to sustain the employability service and help attract additional external funding beyond 2013.

As the result of successful outcomes achieved with FSF funding and securing the LEADER Plus funding, from December 2013 current services provided by Fife Migrants Forum will be expanded to the rural areas of East Fife through the weekly outreach clinics in Cupar.

Recently secured Coalfield Regeneration Trust funding will enable Fife Migrants Forum to address the lack of IT skills within clients group using FMF Job Club services. This will be achieved through Coalfields Community Investment Programme funded IT 4 All project, starting in December 2013.

For further information on the Fife Migrants Forum please see our website:

<http://fifemigrantsforum.org.uk/>

or email:

[info@fifemigrantsforum.org.uk](mailto:info@fifemigrantsforum.org.uk)

\* All EU and EEA states and all the associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus have a designated **National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC)**, which provides a way to compare academic qualifications as part of the [Bologna Process](#). Together they form the **NARIC network**.