

**Employment Support for Croydon’s Unemployed Residents (One Croydon Training)**

**Meeting Notes - 6 December 2023**

It was great to see you all at the training session. A **big thank you** to all who shared with us about the Employment support your organisations can offer Croydon residents.

**Recording of the Employment Support for Croydon Residents session:** <https://youtu.be/KJQUZMZxVkI>

Guest Speakers

Amanda Warren, Job Brokerage Officer, Croydon Works

Croydon Works presentation: <https://cvalive.org.uk/assets/documents/croydon-works-presentation>

Working Homes offers one-to-one employment advice, specialist mentoring and signposting to other support services, vacancy adaptation to suit individual hours and needs, tailored recruitment processes including work trials and informal interviews, in work support to help individuals succeed in their roles, Diversity & Inclusion training for businesses. The programme is specifically designed to work with Croydon residents and offer dedicated to support in to sustainable employment. We work closely with a number of partners to provide a wide range of pathways in to employment. To participate in Working Homes, you must be currently unemployed, over the age of 25, living in London Borough of Croydon. Croydon works is a free-to-use professional recruitment service aimed at working with businesses in and around the Croydon area who are looking to find skilled and experienced candidates. We work closely with you to understand your requirements and provide a fully comprehensive service based around your needs and processes and our service will always be free of charge.

E: [amanda.warren2@croydon.gov.uk](amanda.warren2%40croydon.gov.uk) | W: <https://croydonworks.co.uk/our-services> T: 0208 604 7471

Kirsty Hogg, Integration Hub Lead, The South London Integration hub

Presentation: <https://cvalive.org.uk/assets/documents/dec-2023-nwd-south-london-inte>

E: Kirsty.Hogg@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk | admin@southlondonpartnership.co.uk

W: <https://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/no-wrong-door-south-london-integration-hub/>

Useful links provided by Kirsty in meeting chat

* *Advice Support Knowledge Information (ASKI)* Croydon Support for those facing barriers to inclusion <https://aski.org.uk/>
* *Better Working Futures:* Tailored support for people with a health condition and/or disability, including help with starting a new job and in-work support to accommodate any reasonable adjustments. [https://betterworkingfutures.co.uk/](https://betterworkingfutures.co.uk/%20)
* *CFO Activity Hub London:* Supporting individuals on licence or serving a community sentence by offering a safe and comfortable space. This includes personal advice and guidance to make a plan to move into education, employment or training. <https://cfoactivitylondon.co.uk/>
* *Croydon Commitment:*  Employment support programmes for Croydon residents <https://croydoncommitment.org.uk/>
* *Croydon Voluntary Action* Volunteering opportunities and signposting: <https://cvalive.org.uk/>
* *Croydon Works*: Croydon Employment support for residents and employers in Croydon <https://www.croydonworks.co.uk/>
* *Find a Job*: Job search website by UK government <https://www.gov.uk/find-a-job>
* *GroundWork:* Supporting adults and young people to prepare for and find work <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/london/est-london-projects/>
* Employment support, advice and guidance in your local a <https://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus>
* Reed in Partnership: [ursula.johnston@reed.com](ursula.johnston%40reed.com) | W: [https://repreedinpartnership.co.uk](https://repreedinpartnership.co.uk/) | <https://bwfsouthlondon.co.uk/> | [https://workroutes.co.uk](https://workroutes.co.uk/) |

Emma Gillson, Croydon Borough Partnership Manager, DWP/Croydon JobcentrePlus

Shared on video, no presentation.

Contact Details Ciara Campbell, Croydon Borough Partnership Manager, Department for Work and Pensions/Croydon Jobcentre Plus  E: | Ciara.campbell1@dwp.gov.uk | W: [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/)

Francoise Gayle, Community Support Curriculum Team Manager, Croydon Adult Learning & Training (CALAT)

Presentation: <https://cvalive.org.uk/assets/documents/calat-presentation>

W: [www.calat.ac.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cuser%5CDesktop%5CMeetings%5CEMPLOYABILITY%5C2023%5C6%20Dec%202023%5Cwww.calat.ac.uk) | E: [francoise.gayle@croydon.gov.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cuser%5CDesktop%5CMeetings%5CEMPLOYABILITY%5C2023%5C6%20Dec%202023%5Cfrancoise.gayle%40croydon.gov.uk)

Rachael Blades Ability to change

Presentation: [https://cvalive.org.uk/assets/documents/abilitytochange](https://cvalive.org.uk/assets/documents/abilitytochange%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

E: [Info@abilitytochange.org.uk](Info%40abilitytochange.org.uk%20) | [referrals@abilitytochange.org.uk](referrals%40abilitytochange.org.uk%20) | [Workshops@abilitytochange.org.uk](Workshops%40abilitytochange.org.uk%20)

T: 020 8686 9061 / 07900 792 339 W: <www.abilitytochange.org.uk>

**Other organisations who shared service updates during the open session**

Tom Richardson, Education, Training & Employability, Senior Coordinator, Palace for Life Foundation

Presentation**:**  <https://cvalive.org.uk/assets/documents/palace-for-life-referral-prese>

E: [tomrichardson@palaceforlife.org](tomrichardson%40palaceforlife.org%20) | ETE@palaceforlife.org | W: [www.palaceforlife.org/project/game-on](http://www.palaceforlife.org/project/game-on)

Palace for Life's employability programme helps young people age 16 -25 into education, training or employment. The GAME ON employability programme offers the guidance, training and practical skills to help you take the next steps in your career. Under the direction of our staff and industry experts young people can better understand the right path to get into their industry of choice. We help with improving CV, finding opportunities to get qualifications, offering insights into some of the UK’s best employers and help find relevant work experience. There are **three** ways to get involved

* **Skills for Life course** – our core employment programme which covers a broad range of fundamental employment skills
* ‘**Kick Off to…’ short courses** – for those wanting qualifications to get into specific industries
* **Industry Insights & Trips** – real-life industry experiences, networking opportunities and professional advice

Anthony Goffe, Employment Coach, Work Well Croydon

Work Well Croydon providesa range of free employment coaching services for people receiving mental health care from South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.  Work Well Croydon is part of the wider Work Well network, providing employment support across SLaM’s four boroughs (Croydon, Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham). Employment coaches work alongside psychological therapists in the Croydon Talking Therapy service, providing clients with common mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, OCD and PTSD with support.  Clients can be unemployed with a desire to work.  Or employed, (in work or on sickness absence), wishing to return, change jobs or needing support with workplace difficulties, to retain their jobs and manage their wellbeing in work. Employment coaches also support clients with more severe mental illness who are receiving mental health care from a SLaM secondary care team.  Clients are supported to find paid work or to retain their jobs following the evidenced based IPS model. SLaM have built a three-year partnership with University House Legal Advice Centre and fund a weekly legal advice clinic for all Work Well clients experiencing discrimination at work. **Referrals** to the services are made by clinicians, and the one to one career coaching support provided is fully flexible, empowering and personalised to the needs and goals of the client. To find out more about eligibility: <https://work-well.org.uk/our-services/employment/>

Free advice and resources for anyone who is unemployed or experiencing problems at work.

W: <https://work-well.org.uk/advice-blog/> | <https://work-well.org.uk/about-us/> E: workwell@slam.nhs.uk

Fiona Hollow, South London Service Delivery Manager, Smart Works

Smart Works is an employment support service providing high quality clothing and one-to-one coaching ahead of interview to unemployed women in South London. We also support unemployed women looking to secure an interview with personalised coaching, giving practical tips to help close the gap between unemployment and interview. The service is **free of charge** and the clothes are theirs to keep. 69% of the women we support go on to get a job within one month of their appointment. Smart Works operates on a referral system that is quick and easy, just call providing your details and your clients details and we go ahead and get them booked in at a time that suits them.  Online referral form <https://smartworks.org.uk/refer/> | E: [steph.cooper@smartworks.org.uk](steph.cooper%40smartworks.org.uk%C2%A0%C2%A0)| T: 0207 288 1770 W: https://smartworks.org.uk/

Keishelle Charles, Learner Recruitment Officer, Learning Curve Group

We are training providers providing NVQs and apprenticeships to school leavers through to adults. At Learning Curve Hair and Beauty Academy Croydon, we offer a wide range of courses Hairdressing, Barbering and Make-up Artistry. We have secured funding specifically for school leavers, unemployed individuals, and those receiving various benefits. For more details on the courses and funding:  T: 01388 777129 | E: [keishelle.charles@learningcurvegroup.co.uk](keishelle.charles%40learningcurvegroup.co.uk)

W: [www.learningcurvegroup.co.uk](www.learningcurvegroup.co.uk%20%20)

Status Employment

Based in Croydon wesupport individuals with mental health or learning disability into employment, further education or volunteering. *Self-Employment Academy*: Our self-employment academy is aimed at Croydon residents who have a disability and or long-term health condition and the desire/idea to work for themselves. For more information W: <https://www.statusemployment.org.uk/self-employment-academy-2/>

*Complex Needs*: We support people with complex needs in Croydon to overcome barriers to employment. These challenges may well encompass; retaining your current job, finding a new job, or your first job, supporting you to return to work after a period of unemployment, career planning: determining what work you want to pursue, learning a new skill, starting education or training and starting your own business

**Resources**

**Directories**

1. **Croydon Simply Connect Directory**

You can find out about local services on Simply Connect Croydon. This online directory lists numerous specialist support services. Find ‘organisations supporting employment in Croydon’ via the CVA website home page [www.cvalive.org.uk](http://www.cvalive.org.uk) → Directories Button → Type in Employment

* Adding, or amending your activities (for those already listed on the directory) please email your changes to [connectwellcroydon@cvalive.org.uk](http://connectwellcroydon@cvalive.org.uk)
* **Not listed on the Croydon Simply Connect Directory yet?** To add your services you need to complete this [online form](https://forms.office.com/r/L5F8mB41dh)
1. Other useful directories can be found on the home page of the Croydon Voluntary Action website, [www.cvalive.org.uk](http://www.cvalive.org.uk)(Homeless Support, Foodbanks, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Autism, Debt Advice Services, Find Activities, Find Organisations)
2. One Croydon Training Recordings and meeting notes of other recent One Croydon Training which you may find of interest
* [Mental Health Support for Young People](https://cvalive.org.uk/news/2022-news-items/mental-health-support-for-youn-2/)
* [Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support in Croydon](https://cvalive.org.uk/news/2022-news-items/domestic-abuse-and-sexual-viol/)
* [Mental Health Support for Adults in Croydon](https://cvalive.org.uk/news/mental-health-support-in-croyd/)

To view the full [CVA Group Training and Events calendar](http://www.cvalive.org.uk/calendar/)