

Leap Into Work – programme introduction and overview

Solace is a partner of the Leap Into Work Programme, providing support for women facing barriers to employment. Solace is delivering the programme in Barnet, Haringey and Enfield.



Introduction

Leap into Work is a project targeted at women facing barriers to employment. The programme provides employability and vocational skill support to workless women, primarily from BAME communities across London. It offers intensive assessments, vocational skills training, placements and volunteering opportunities, leading to jobs with further help to sustain employment. It is running from now until September 2014.

The delivery partnership consists of specialist who work with women and who have very good track records of engaging and supporting women who are far from the labour market. Delivery partners have easily accessible offices and training centres, which include Islington and Croydon (LTEN), City of London and Hackney (CRISIS), Waltham Forest (ELS), Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering (HAVCO), Westminster and Camden (Midaye), Peckham and Bromley (SMWA), Enfield, Haringey and Barnet, (Solace Women) and Lambeth (Women like Us). It is funded by London Councils and ESF.

Programme outline

The programme is delivered in several stages:



- *Support progressing individual action plans*
 - *One-to-one advice and guidance*
 - *Group workshops* on writing CVs, cover letters, interviewing, confidence and team working etc.
- *Work placements/ volunteering* to gain practical skills and experience supporting gaining paid employment.
- *Gaining and sustaining employment*, including job coaching and liaison with employers.
- *Education and training* to gain formal or informal qualifications.

LEAP into Work Programme. Updated: Monday, 3rd June 2013

Eligibility

Please make referrals to the programme where the woman is:

- Living in Barnet, Haringey or Enfield boroughs.
- Workless, unemployed or economically inactive
 - Receiving Job Seeker Allowance and working under 8 hours a week;
 - Receiving Employment and Support Allowance and working under 8 hours a week;
- Have the right to work in the UK; if they do not have an NI number we can support their registration.
- Not registered for other ESF programmes.
- Homeless and registered for JSA or in temporary/ sheltered accommodation within the specified boroughs, including those released from custody.

Target groups: Whilst not requirements, Leap Into Work is especially aimed at reaching: Somalis, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and North African communities; Disabled people; People with ESOL; Older people; Refugees with the right to work in the UK; and Lone Parents.

Referrals and contact

Referrals can be made from now until March 2014, and the project will close in September 2014. Women referred who meet the eligibility criteria will be offered an enrolment appointment where eligibility will be verified and their Individual Action Plan will be developed.

To make a referral, or to find out more about Leap Into Work please contact the programme coordinator Dana Ion d.ion@solacewomensaid.org (Dana works Monday to Thursday and is based at Blenheim Court). Meetings will be arranged with teams working in the target boroughs to go over the programme in more detail and answer any questions; please contact Dana or Kim (k.bond@solacewomensaid.org) to request a meeting.