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Partnership pilot delivers Copeland jobs boost

A group of nine long-term unemployed people from Copeland, Cumbria have been offered jobs within the Sellafield Ltd Infrastructure Strategic Alliance (ISA) contract following the successful completion of a pilot employment support programme.

The nine were part of a group of 31 who completed an eight-week employability skills package which is delivered by construction and infrastructure company Morgan Sindall, and design and engineering firm Arup, in partnership with Copeland Borough Council.

Eight of the jobs are permanent while one is a temporary position.

The programme, called Creating Careers in Cumbria, is supported by Gen II, Lakes College, Inspira and Jobcentre plus and was designed to give long-term unemployed people from the Copeland Borough area a route back into employment.

The candidates received support and guidance activities such as help with CV writing and interview techniques. 15 of the candidates secured five-week work experience placements within the ISA contract. The nine who have secured the jobs are drawn from a mixture of those who received training and those who completed the work experience programme.

A further seven have also secured employment within the ISA supply chain, three within the nuclear industry.

One of the nine successful candidates is David Bowe, 54, from Cleator Moor, who said: "Thanks to the programme I have secured a permanent job which will change my life. I worked for over 30 years in a local paper mill until I was made redundant in the spring. I was responsible for an annual budget of over £10 million but I wasn't used to being in the job market and didn't really know how to put a CV together.

"This is the first time I had sought employment in a long, long time and I will always be grateful to Morgan Sindall and Arup for this opportunity."

Pat Graham, director of economic growth at Copeland Borough Council, said: "The results of this pilot scheme speak for themselves and we have been absolutely delighted to work with Morgan Sindall and Arup, as well as our local partners, to bring this scheme through the pilot with such a success.

"It remains our key priority to help people in our community into work, and the more that we can support the local supply chain to access local talent and develop our own people, the better for all concerned."

Andy Crowder, operations director at Morgan Sindall, said: "Creating Careers in Cumbria offers the opportunity for local people to enhance their skills to assist with job hunting.

"By providing training courses and work experience that is specific to their needs, we hope to give individuals every chance possible to improve their future.

“We have an important role to play in making a positive difference to the local community, to help provide the skills and experience to support employment. This supports the economic development of the communities within which we work, encouraging a sustainable local workforce and more stable local economy.”

The Sellafield Ltd ISA contract was awarded to Morgan Sindall and Arup in joint venture in December 2012. The contract is seeing Morgan Sindall and Arup deliver a programme management and project delivery service for all infrastructure assets on the Sellafield site. It will run for an initial five year period, but could be extended for a further ten years and is worth up to a potential £1.1 billion.

Mike Priestley, area manager for Inspira, commented “Morgan Sindall and Arup are to be congratulated for going that bit further to create, fund and take the lead on a programme like this. They made a big commitment to help local, unemployed people be better prepared to access work and then backed it up with job offers from themselves and others. We’ve been delighted to work in this partnership to help deliver something so worthwhile.”

Michael Osborne, associate director from Arup, said “It was really great to see such a transformation in the self-confidence of those on the training programme after only such a short period of time. We are reviewing a number of the CVs and have already interviewed and offered a role to a candidate.”



Graduation Day for the candidates alongside the Morgan Sindall and Arup staff who ran the programme.

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Morgan Sindall

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Arup

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