

Home to Work was set up to support our local community, building economic growth by encouraging the economically inactive to re-engage. Skills 4 You was set up to meet the needs of the rising number of unemployed people in Copeland. The charity's objectives are to relieve poverty, provide training and work experience with the aim of getting people back into work. S4Y is proud of its track record, enabling learners to actively engage in real life work settings, offering practical skills development with a choice of activities to address employment needs, expectations, and progression routes. The S4Y project offers local, long term unemployed and "hard to reach" benefit claimants the chance to learn new skills, build confidence and motivation. We focus on developing a good work ethic by identifying and then finding solutions, to their barriers to employment. We have an open door policy for adults who have never worked, long-term unemployed, socially isolated have a health/mental health issue. Some of the issues we deal with: drug/alcohol dependency, gambling addictions, generational unemployment, social isolation, agoraphobia, anxiety and depression. There is an overwhelming body of evidence which claims that there will be a massive upsurge in the numbers of cases of anxiety/depression as we emerge from the Coronavirus virus.

Goodlives is a fresh produce growing project on Westlakes. The learners can gain experience/volunteering opportunities working on their own or as part of a larger group - allowing them to engage as much or as little as they feel able to at any given time. They will have the opportunity to engage further – gaining skills leading to further training/education/employment. These work and education benefits sit alongside the health benefits of working in the fresh air, getting exercise, the confidence from contributing to a community project and benefiting from good fresh food. The opportunity to work outdoors and to grow something from seed will engage a group of people who cannot be reached through opportunities currently on offer. For some, the idea of joining a group and working in an indoor facility will be very much more daunting than working outside, with support, in this project.

The site is open 9am – 4pm Mon to Friday. The yurt will be open during these times and may also – upon request only – operate slightly later if, for example some staff from the Science Park requested a yoga or meditation group session to be run. This would be exceptional usage rather than than normal usage. Our Learners attend 10 – 2pm each day.

There would be 8 – 10 Learners using the yurt at any one time. The sessions would be to provide therapeutic value for relaxation and as a support for Learners that do not enjoy good mental health.

We already have good links to companies on the Park. Some of the companies send their staff on volunteering days on the site (Kaefer, Balfour Beatty, Severfield, and we have been lucky to receive support from Westinghouse for electricity, Kaefer for water, BAF for digging services, Balfour Beatty, Severfield for polytunnels, GAP for sanitary provision, DSD for the creation of a courtyard, William King Builders, Thomas Graham, Orano for a polytunnel etc. The yurt has been gifted from Natural England.

We have sanitation on site serviced weekly by GAP, We now have both electricity and water on the site.