

# **UKSPF Conwy People** and Skills Key Fund

### Conwy People and Skills Key Fund received £890,000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Applications were invited from training providers and organisations to deliver essential skills and training to upskill Conwy residents and increase their confidence with numeracy.

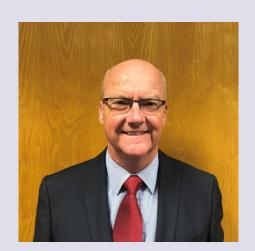
Eleven projects secured UKSPF, to support Conwy residents. Projects included access to paid work placements, general skills development, training and qualifications to support future careers. A number of the projects supported those hardest to reach, aiming to increase individuals' confidence, improve their skills and provide pre-employment support.

The Key Fund was led by Conwy County Borough Council and provided grants to enable the distribution of the UKSPF funding for smaller projects identified at a local level.

"The People and Skills Key Fund has funded projects to support people to improve their skills and their confidence. These are the essential skills they need in their everyday lives and to help them get employment.

The Key Fund has allowed us to invest in the future of individuals, and when people are equipped with the necessary skills it enables local business and the county to thrive."

Cllr Nigel Smith
Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy
Conwy County Borough Council



The UK Shared Prosperity Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

Find out more:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus



#### **Case Study: Green Skills Small Woods Association**

Small Woods Association developed the Green Skills projects to focus on positive engagement with and use of green spaces in woodlands in Conwy through delivering green skills courses and training. The project engaged with approximately 100 participants

including Conwy residents and professionals in the county over drop-in sessions and multi-session programmes alongside online programmes to enable Conwy residents that may be unable to attend in-person.

#### Feedback from a participant:

"Volunteering on the six week well-being course, as well as forest school for Coed Lleol has greatly improved my confidence at delivering sessions, which I hope to apply towards running my own in the near future.

I'm currently training to become a well-being in nature practitioner and I would relish the opportunity to continue volunteering for Coed Lleol.

I have felt encouraged, supported and welcomed by all staff and volunteer members and I'm truly grateful for such a positive volunteering experience, I look forward to many more."







#### Nature Health Walk Leader Training

anyone interested in walking and leading walks from beginner level upwards living in and around Conwy county. A free two-day training course for

Gain knowledge and practical skills in designing and leading walks to improve the mental and physical health of your family, friends or local community. Led by professional heath walk

specialists in outdoor and nature based health.

Gain an Agored certified qualification

#### When and where

Mon 18th & Tues 19th Nov 2024. Llanfairfechan Village Hall

Can't make those dates? There's also free online training available to do at your own pace

Please contact Tamsin for more information or to book your place

□ tamsinfretwell@smallwoods.org.uk

This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.







### Case Study: Turnaround Citizen's Advice Conwy

Citizen's Advice (CA) Conwy ran two projects under the Conwy People and Skills Key Fund. These projects provided 12 participants with paid placements that provided support and training to become Citizen's Advice Generalist Advisers. The participants worked closely with

CA Conwy Advisers to gain delivery experience. Following completion, many of the participants were successful in securing employment with Citizen's Advice and continue to develop their skills in the workplace environment.

Chief Executive and Project Manager for the Turnaround projects said:

"This new approach to training has been hugely successful. The opportunity for the trainees to receive individual advice, career development and accredited training whilst being paid has been transformational. We observed the trainees grow in knowledge, confidence and self-worth."

#### Feedback from a participant:

"Before I joined this project, I had been out of work for months and had been struggling to find employment. I had also never really worked as part of a team before and was not confident about my own abilities or how I would perform.

But this project has been a life-changer for me! It has given me the confidence and the skills I needed to work effectively as part of a team and the people I have been working with have been so lovely! I couldn't have asked for a better place to work or a better goal to be a part of."





### Case Study: Enriched Conwy Conwy County Borough Council

The Enriched Conwy project by Conwy County Borough Council's Leisure Department aimed to provide training and development opportunities for Conwy residents aged 16-35 who have an interest in working in the sports development and

leisure industries. Training courses provided included mountain bike leadership courses, water skills and pool lifeguard courses and safeguarding courses to provide participants with qualifications and support to develop careers within the leisure sector.

#### Feedback from participants:

"I really enjoyed learning how to become a leader, looking forward to developing my skills further."

"Fantastic training opportunities for local people."

"A well delivered course with plenty of practical elements to keep you motivated."







### Case Study: Budgeting Life Skill ARC Enterprises

ARC Enterprises delivered adult numeracy courses aimed at Conwy residents to improve their confidence with managing money effectively and developing life skills. ARC successfully delivered casual, in-person and online support to Conwy residents at

locations in Llandudno and Colwyn Bay and worked alongside other Conwy People and Skills Key Fund projects to signpost participants to other services and provisions in the county.



Project Manager and Director of ARC Enterprises said:

"As an organisation experienced in delivering community projects in the Conwy area over many years, we have seen first-hand the financial difficulties many of our clients experience. A lack of numeracy/financial skills, budgeting skills or knowledge, almost always exacerbated any other barriers or problems they may have had.

The funding we received from the People and Skills Fund has enabled us to make a positive change and redress many of these issues, enabling us to provide support and one-to-one mentoring to well over 50 people."





## To find out more about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Conwy, visit:

### www.conwy.gov.uk/uk-shared-prosperity-fund



