

## Coventry 4 Good progress report

This grant has contributed to the cost of running two cohorts of Radio Plus's Routes to Employment media and job readiness training scheme and piloting a scheme with Coventry University to bring together vulnerable young people and Coventry University Journalism undergraduates.

The first cohort ran over 13 days during 7 weeks between 12<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June, culminating in a live radio show on the day of the EU Referendum. The second cohort ran over 12 days during 6 weeks between 4<sup>th</sup> October 9<sup>th</sup> November, culminating in a live radio show about by-laws in Coventry and including a visit to the Coventry FabLab. In total, sixteen unemployed or NEET young people, plus an older long term unemployed man, completed the course.

All participants reported improvements against at least two of the eleven progress measures: personal confidence; team working; time management; searching the job market; CV writing; writing job applications; job interviews; using IT and software; interviewing for radio; producing a radio show; communication skills. Some reported improvements against all the measures.

Most believed that the course would improve their job prospects and we are aware that three have progressed to employment or further training and one is now a regular volunteer with Radio Plus responsible for producing a weekly show. All have grown in confidence and developed transferrable skills

"I really enjoyed the course and it has made a difference in my confidence and has started to bring a positive outlook in myself. Darren was a brilliant teacher too and fun to work with". Judith Dembo (young person)



Staff reported how much the students appreciated the opportunity to provide leadership to the young people and put into practice in a real life environment what they are learning in the lecture theatre – creating, editing and recording journalistic pieces, producing and taking part in a live radio show and making use of social media to support the broadcasts.

"We'd certainly work alongside the station again and we actively encourage students to get in touch with Radio Plus to offer their services as volunteers on shows." Ben Falk, Coventry University

Coventry University is currently going through a process of re-validating the Journalism course and is now considering making the experience with Radio Plus a mandatory part of

the work experience module. Since the Coventry4Good project started, Radio Plus's Routes to Employment course has been accepted as a delivery component of the Coventry & Warwickshire Accelerate programme.