



MORE THAN 8,000 REASONS TO CELEBRATE

NOTTINGHAM employment and skills specialists Working Links are celebrating their tenth anniversary by revealing they've helped more than 8,000 people into work over the past decade.

The organisation, which runs a host of government contracts to help unemployed people back to work, currently has two offices in the city and celebrated the milestone with an event at the Trent FM Nottingham Arena in June.

Working Links delivers return to work programmes in partnership with Jobcentre Plus across Nottinghamshire, currently helping anyone unemployed – including ex offenders, homeless people and those with drug and alcohol issues – gain sustainable employment.

And in addition the welfare to work specialists has successfully run employment skills based programmes through the Skills Funding Agency (previously known as the Learning and Skills Fund.) Through this scheme unemployed people have been able to retrain into different career paths, often picking up accredited qualifications along the way.

Celebrating their achievements with them at the event was the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Brian Grocock, Karen Masterson, Director of Marketing and Corporate Responsibility and Mike Drewry, Contract Manager at the Department for Work and Pensions.

Mike Lee, Regional Director for Working Links said: "Working Links' success has largely been down to treating each jobseeker as an individual and by giving the one to one support in finding a job that they need.

"We have gone from humble beginnings at the start to a large operation in Nottingham with two very busy offices but our ethos has always remained the same – ensuring that a job seeker finds the job that they really want to do rather than have to do means that they are more likely to stay in work."

To find out more about Working Links and the back to work support they are able to offer, please phone 0115 9241229, call into The Frontage, Queen Street, Nottingham or visit www.workinglinks.co.uk

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Ends

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Notes to Editors

- Working Links was founded in 2000 and operates in 184 locations across England, Scotland and Wales. It is a unique organisation that delivers services to tackle social exclusion and poverty by helping disadvantaged individuals and communities.
- The organisation's belief that employment is the best route out of poverty has helped more than 130,000 people back into work which is, currently, one person every four minutes of the working day.
- It is a public-private-voluntary company. Its shareholders are the government's Shareholder Executive, Manpower, Capgemini and Mission Australia. It delivers effective solutions by working in partnership with organisations including the Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, and the Probation Service.
- Profit is not Working Links' only driving force. Its shareholders endorse its social purpose and are interested in how Working Links can create long term value, investing in the quality of services and the communities where it operates.
- Working Links helps and supports people who face significant challenges and barriers such as those who have been unemployed for a long time to former offenders, lone parents and older workers. It also works with employers and the prison and probation services to help prisoners in over 20 institutions.
- By helping the most vulnerable in society to improve their skills and help them move into jobs with a future, Working Links can create a greater sense of social inclusion. This leads to better health, education, reduced crime and brighter futures.
- When Working Links was founded in April 2000 its shareholders decided a proportion of profits should be reinvested to support the communities where works. The Links Foundation was subsequently launched in 2004 as a charitable trust to distribute this Community Reinvestment Fund. Since then, more than £3million has been invested and more than 150 projects across Britain have benefited.