

CELEBRATING
WORKING
IN
PARTNERSHIP

7 YEARS
OF PARTNERSHIP

 **Booth Centre**

 BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY

The Prince's
Responsible
Business Network

HOW WE MET...

Business in the Community (BITC) began Ready for Work in 2001, initially operating at a smaller scale before accessing central government funding in 2007 and ramping up its delivery. Between 2001 and 2016,



Ready for Work supported over **1000 PEOPLE** across Manchester with **60%** of those who completed the programme going into employment.

Ready for Work adopts a multi-agency approach, recognising that to help people who have experienced homelessness into employment, it's important to have support in place for housing, health, benefits and finance. The Booth Centre was one of the first organisations that BITC built a partnership with.

HOW IT GREW...

It wasn't until 2016 when the Booth Centre relocated to its new building on Pimblett Street, that the partnership evolved, developed and formalised through funding, as well as hosting Ready for Work pre-employment training.

BITC also started running the Ready for Work Job Club from the Centre. It was at this time that the Manchester Homelessness Partnership was formed and BITC launched the MHP Employment Action Group.



WHAT MADE IT WORK?

Chris Gopal: Ready for Work Manager at Business in the Community



"It has been a privilege and an honour to have been able to support people into employment over the past 15 years. I've met so many good people. But it's been challenging too! When people face homelessness, there can be a complex series of hurdles to jump through before getting a job. That's why it's been such a pleasure working in partnership with Booth Centre over these years.

Through a mix of pre-employment training, work placements and job clubs, the partnership has allowed us to help tackle people's barriers collectively. And by building a network of businesses, agencies and local authority services, we have been able to offer people a holistic package of support to not only get a good job, but to keep it as well. I know that Booth Centre and Manchester Homelessness Partnership will take the learnings from this partnership and continue to offer people the support that they need."

WHAT MADE IT WORK?

Paul Newcombe: CEO Booth Centre

"The partnership with BITC worked so well because it was built on coproduction, on putting the person at the heart of everything. The knowledge and experience that Chris brought to the partnership was invaluable and having the ability to work closely with him in the Centre meant that we could respond to changing situations very quickly. The support offered to prepare a person for the real experience of the work place, was hugely impactful. It's one thing to get a person a job, but to get them really informed about what to expect, to give them experience in a working environment on placement, to keep mentoring them throughout, was a very bespoke and effective service."



WHAT MADE IT WORK?

Employment Providers & Business Leaders

Business in the Community
has been working alongside businesses
to develop and deliver employment
programmes for more than

20 YEARS and we have seen the

direct and vital role businesses can play through offering
inclusive employment and good work for all.



WHAT MADE IT WORK?

Inclusive Employment:

How to Inspire, Hire, & Grow diverse talent

BITC have created campaigns to encourage businesses to take action and provided toolkits to ensure learnings are shared and used to assist individuals who face barriers to employment. BITC's inclusive recruitment campaign,

OPENING DOORS

calls on employers to change how they recruit by taking specific actions to unlock their jobs to untapped talent.

HOW DID IT WORK?

Joe*

Joe came to the Booth Centre looking for help to find employment. He came to Job Club and met Chris. BITC introduced him to the site manager at a City Centre construction scheme. He was offered a job and the Booth Centre team helped him find private rented accommodation. Joe found it difficult to juggle these new responsibilities at first. Ongoing support from BITC and their relationship with the employer, alongside the Booth Centre's support, helped Joe to sustain his job and home.



Tim*

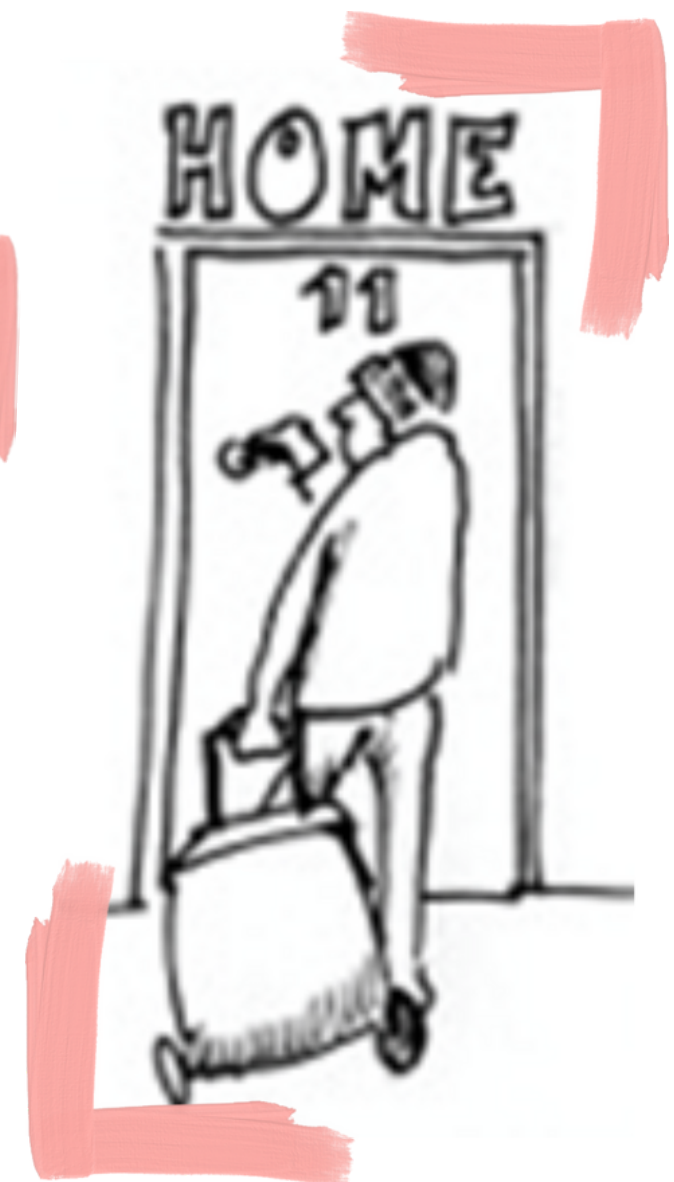
Tim came to the Booth Centre and started going to Job Club. Tim successfully completed a CSCS course at the Centre. With his new CSCS card, Chris introduced him to an employer who offered him a short-term contract in construction.

Tim proved himself to be a reliable, hard worker. BITC remained in contact with Tim and his employer and at the end of the short-term contract, Tim was offered a permanent contract with the employer's supply chain. He has now moved into a private rented home with the help of the Booth Centre's Resettlement Team.



Oliver*

Oliver was rough sleeping, as an EU National with Pre-Settled Status, he had no eligibility for support from the local authority. Booth Centre offered him shelter under ABEN, while looking for work. BITC supported him into full time work in manufacturing. He faced a number of issues that impacted on his ability to sustain the job, both in terms of communication and long term housing. But with continued support offered to Oliver and conversations with the employer, BITC was able to help him to sustain the job and transition into private rented accommodation.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED

Between April 2016 and March 2022,
the Business in the Community & Booth
Centre's Employment Service Partnership
supported

598 people into employment

with **53%** sustaining employment after 3 months.



Business in the Community Resources

The practical toolkit How to Inspire, Hire & Grow Diverse Talent supports employers to make practical changes to remove barriers and improve outcomes with benefits for individuals, businesses and society.

The Ban the Box Employer Guide highlights how employers can create fairer opportunities for people with criminal convictions.

Manchester Homelessness Partnership: Employment Action Group

<https://mhp.org.uk/action-groups/employment/>

Inclusive Recruitment: Opening Doors <https://www.bitc.org.uk/openingdoors/>

How to Inspire, Hire & Grow Diverse Talent Toolkit:

<https://www.bitc.org.uk/toolkit/how-to-inspire-hire-and-grow-diverse-talent/>

Ban the Box: Employer Guide <https://www.bitc.org.uk/toolkit/ban-the-box-employer-guide/>

Booth Centre <https://www.boothcentre.org.uk/>



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THANK YOU

**Chris, for years of dedication and support to the
Booth Centre and our community**

**Lou, for your wonderful illustrations
and dedicated volunteering**