

Slough Community Matters



OSBORNE

Home on the High Street

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Welcome to Slough Community Matters.

Hello,

It has been a busy few months for the Community Investment team and our partners. From winning the Business Support of the Year Award to helping local charities such as Hestia and SHOC, we have enjoyed getting involved in valuable projects across Slough.

I've enjoyed seeing the continued benefits for local people as a result of the fantastic services available across the borough and we are proud to be a part of them.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our community partners for their on-going support and to our people. We are only able to be successful due to people generously giving their time and talent.

We hope you enjoy the read and if you have any ideas for future projects, please get in touch.

Michelle Comley



Our Investment



63

Initiatives supported/delivered



2589

Local people engaged/benefited



2

Community facilities improved



42

Extra staff hours

*These figures reflect our social value impact from April 1st 2019 to 31st December 2019

Winning at the SCVS Awards!



Kamal Lallian, Slough Borough Council's Neighbourhood Contracts & Business Services Manager, said:

"This is a great result which benefits Slough as a result of the council's partnership with Osborne. Congratulations to everyone at our Slough Contract, it's a fantastic achievement and demonstrates how we can transform local communities".

We were thrilled to win the award for Business Support of the Year at the Slough Voluntary Sector Awards with Slough Bourough Council.

Slough CVS has been supporting people in Slough since the 1930's and has developed a number of initiatives to encourage local residents to get active, enjoy community cohesion and try something new, from art to dance.

The Slough Voluntary Sector Awards celebrate the achievements of local voluntary and community groups in Slough.



Michelle Comley, Osborne Account Director, said:

"We were pleased to be shortlisted in the first place and absolutely delighted to have won the award. Osborne is not only committed to providing a repairs and maintenance service but working in the Slough community to help people now and for their future."



HOME on the High Street



We have been busy painting and transforming HOME on the High Street.

The area is pop up space for residents to be creative, share their stories and collaborate with artists from around the world. HOME Slough shares this space with community groups and they provide lots of ways for the public to be creative and enjoy cultural activities.

Over two days in the summer, we managed to cover 3,965sq ft of walls and woodwork, making the space look renewed.

Generous volunteers from several organisations, and local businesses, including Bell Group, ADL Connexions and Mix Up Reality contributed to 96 hours of volunteering. Volunteers from HOME Slough's creative network also donated their time.

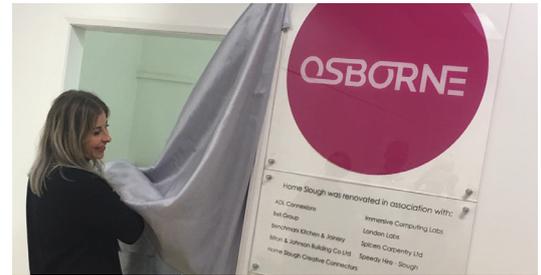
Equipment to assist us was kindly donated by Speedy Slough, and Bell Group also donated the paint to use.

After we had renovated the space, there was a celebration event where a plaque was unveiled and presented to HOME Slough.

There was the opportunity for guests to have a tour around the new facility. Since opening, the centre has been a great success with over 900 sessions held.

Councillor James Swindlehurst commented;

"Home on the High Street is a great space for residents to explore their creative sides. The new kitchen, ground floor toilet facilities and the redecorated exhibition space will allow Home Slough to reach new audiences and provide memorable arts and cultural events that celebrate our town and I'd like to thank all involved in this success, especially our partners Osborne."



'Gift, with love'

Our team has delivered a yearlong campaign called, 'Gift, With Love' for local charity Hestia in Slough.

Hestia supports adults and children in crisis, including mental health, modern day slavery response and domestic abuse refuge, and share our office space.

The campaign comprises of three strands; quarterly gifting to support families, donating business clothes, and creating work placement opportunities for people supported by Hestia.

In the last twelve months, we have supported, amongst others; a Mother's Day appeal, donations for families breaking up for the summer holiday, returning to school packs in September, and most recently a Christmas Present Toy appeal.

We have also helped to transform the lives of many people who are supported by the charity by organising work experience in our offices with the aim of building confidence and getting women to return to the workplace.

One placement has truly embraced the opportunity and has got stuck into her role, supporting our Community Investment Manager, Claire with office administration.

Recently we also helped to move a domestic abuse victim into a new home, with the victim saying:

"Thank you Osborne, without your help I couldn't have done it. The day you helped to move me was my son's fourth Birthday and it was the best present he had moving into a new and safe home".

Another initiative we helped with was a Victorian Yuletide event at Windsor Castle. We invited two families we have been supporting throughout the year to watch the changing of the guards, enjoy a carol service, and there was also the opportunity for the children to get involved with an art and craft session.

In the run up to Christmas we launched a toy and voucher drive to donate to victims throughout the festive period. Our people and local businesses across Slough were incredibly generous, with gifts being delivered to Hestia, who delivered them to their families.

Abigail Ampofo, Regional Director of Operatoinis for Hestia said:

"We are grateful for Osborne and Slough Borough Council's support of Hestia's domestic abuse services in Slough. Parents will have a chance to rebuild their confidence and, in the long-run, their families lives."

Thank you to all of our people and supply chain for helping with the appeal – it has truly changed the lives of a number of families in Slough.





Employment Creation & Skills Development



Apprentice Recruitment

We recently held our first Apprenticeship Recruitment Day at our offices in Langley.

As part of our commitment to recruit locally, we created an advertising campaign aimed at attracting young people within the Borough.

Afterwards, we were pleased to announce that we were able to offer apprenticeships to four local residents.

Two of the apprentices will go into business administration, while another will be working with electricians in domestic properties and the fourth will work with our plumbers.

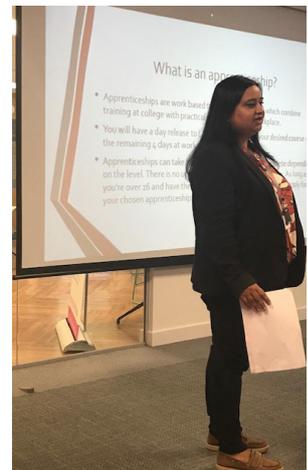
All four apprentices will join the six already working with us as part of our partnership

vision to support local employment.

We also spoke to some other candidates and are going to be looking at offering traineeships, giving them the option to gain skills to prepare them for an apprenticeship or a full time job.

Jo Fletcher, Head of Engagement said:

"Providing employment opportunities in our local communities is a commitment that we are proud of."



Working with SHOC

Over the last few months, we have been working with Slough Homeless Our Concern (SHOC), delivering a number of initiatives.

We supported World Mental Health and World Homeless Day at the same time in October, and with our local partners, Thrive365, Mapis and ADL Connexions, Osborne helped to deliver an employability workshop for the homeless.

SHOC is a day centre that provides care for the homeless in and around Slough and those that are at risk of becoming so. The charity has been running since 1997 and has helped over a thousand people. In 2019 alone, there were 110 service users on the register and 1143 meals provided.

The charity also creates opportunities for homeless people to get stable homes, learn new skills and find employment.

We delivered an employability workshop, which included building confidence.

and cooked a hearty breakfast and lunch for the homeless. We had a number of our people join in the cooking and also had the chance to clean and organise the kitchen for the centre, making it easier for all service users.

Robert Layman, Day Centre Manager said:

"Thank you to those at Osborne who volunteered and supported our charity and connecting with our service users".

"You have brought hope to those needing to get back into work, it was a great day, thank you!"



SBCP Conference

As part of our community commitment, we joined a networking event with Slough Business Community Partnership (SBCP), and recently attended their Annual Conference.

The Slough Business Community Partnership is a not for profit organisation that focuses on creating partnerships between the private, public and voluntary sector to benefit the communities of Slough. The partnership was formed in 2001 and has gone on to support over 60 community groups, benefitting over 10,000 local people.

The annual event was well attended with over 100 delegates from a spectrum of local businesses and community groups, who all share the same purpose - to build a stronger community. Slough MP Tan Dhesi was also in attendance.

The agenda mainly focused on how we can build social impact into the future for our next generation. Our Community Investment Manager, Claire Giacobbe, joined the panel debate where there was lively discussion about the future.

A spokesman for SBCP said:

"Having Osborne Property Services as an SBCP member has added immense value."

"As a business their social value and impact in the community is very diverse and this was shown at our Q&A session on the panel."



Slough Young Carers

We recently supported the Slough Young Carers Christmas Party alongside the charity Aik Saath.

Aik Saath means 'Together as One' in Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu and the charity believes in working together for positive social change. The group was established in response to gang violence in Slough and have gone on to work with Primary and Secondary Schools and various Youth Services in the Borough.

Slough Young Carers supports eight to nineteen year olds in Slough with sessions offering advice, support and a break for young people to enjoy various activities.

Osborne Property Services went along to the party, which was held at the Zest Restaurant in Langley College.

We sponsored the sports activities and the hair salon, allowing young carers the chance to have a number of treatments and be pampered, or get stuck into playing various games. There was also singing and dancing, meaning everyone could have a good time.



Working with London Irish

We have partnered with The London Irish Foundation to help hard to reach young people across Slough.

The programme is part of the Premiership Rugby National Programme and works with young people aged between 16 and 24 and not currently in education, employment or training. When young people are on the programme, they gain recognised qualifications whilst also undertaking work experience.

The partnership means that we have been able to offer traineeships and work experience to young people on the course.

Michelle Comley, Account Director, said:

"This is a brilliant opportunity to get involved with a scheme that is making such a difference to young people's lives".

This is the first year that the London Irish Foundation Team will be working in Slough and they have joined forces with a number of local schools, Thames Valley Police and the Council's Youth Team.

Councillor Mohammed Nazir, Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, said:

"This is a great programme which Osborne is partnering with. We hope that the offer of work experience will give these young people an insight into the working world and the confidence and skills needed to gain employment".



LONDON IRISH
Foundation



Education & Culture



Work Experience

Over the busy summer months, we opened our doors to a number of work experience placements, all of whom are looking for an introduction to the working world.

In June, three students joined our repairs and maintenance team working alongside our plasterers, carpenters and electricians. They were able to visit resident homes, carrying out a variety of repairs and improvements to properties.

In August, we delivered a new style of work experience in partnership with 'Work Inspiration Week', the first of its kind to be held at our contract. Eight students joined us from Langley Academy for the placement, which was delivered in partnership with Learning

to Work, a local charity who work to benefit local young people, schools, colleges and businesses in Slough.

Each day focused on a different theme, ranging from communications to the use of virtual reality in the workplace. Towards the end of the week, the students painted fence panels at a residential block where local charity Men's Matters is based.



Harmanpreet, a student said:

"I just want to thank Osborne as I have learnt so much and have been inspired by people talking about their careers".

Nancy Lalor, Operations Director for Learning to Work said:

"With the skills gap increasingly growing, it is vital that we support young people understand the true breadth of career paths open to them, entry

level requirements and the importance of transferable skills, at the same time as giving them a real glimpse and hands on experience of the world of work."



International Men's Day

International Men's Day took place in November - and of course, we had to get involved!

Along with our community partners Mapis and ADL Connexions, we went along to Westgate School to host an interactive workshop on 'Life After School'. All three organisations started the event by giving a brief overview of their career journeys and then asked students to think about what they would want to do after they left school.

Various ideas were suggested with some lively conversation such as starting a new business, finding employment in the local area or going onto further education. Anita Herbert, founder of ADL Connexions also ran a session on 'Developing and utilising skills through volunteering'.

Year 13 student George said:

"It was really good to have an all-male event targeted around preparation for work; I enjoyed meeting the visitors and learning about their careers so far".

Karen Green, Careers leader at Westgate School commented:

"We appreciated the time and effort that Osborne, Mapis and ADL Connexions gave to our students and we were impressed to hear about how to overcome barriers to choices in life and much more".



Employability Workshops

We have been working to deliver Employability Workshops, aimed at residents.

The purpose of the recent workshops were to target the unemployed or those wanting to develop into an enhanced role/career path.

The sessions began with a quick introduction from our Community Investment Manager, Claire, and then went onto the first session which focused on looking at 'Who am I!'. This included personal character strengths and developing ideas on who you want to be in the future.

The second session looked at 'What my future job might look like!'. Topics spoken about were the difference between a job and career, and top tips on how to win at a job interview.

Finally, the group focused on 'What's next - how do I get there?' and looking ahead to their future careers. Since the workshop, we have been sending participants various vacancies in the local area to aid with gaining employment.

An attendee of the workshop said:

"Thank you for the training, it was great and the whole team was fantastic. The job you sent me sounds great and I am really interested. Thank you once again and for the fantastic opportunity".

Towards the end of the year, we held two of these courses and moving into 2020, we are looking to develop a new course for both residents finding jobs and developing themselves. This will again be working with Slough Borough Council's Adult Learning Team, Thrive 365 and Mapis.



ADL Connexions: Working with local businesses to promote positive social change.



Mapis: Provides qualifications and support to get people back into education and employment.



Thrive 365: Focuses on getting people back on course - through workshops, coaching or training.





Health and Wellbeing

Good Grub Club

Over the summer holidays, we got stuck into helping families combat holiday hunger by helping at The Good Grub Club.

The project is an initiative created to combat holiday hunger, supporting families by hosting cooking workshops for the parents whilst children enjoyed interactive activities.

Parents learnt to cook healthy and affordable meals under guidance of a trained chef.

The club ran for a six week period through the holidays and we joined other local

organisations and charities, including ADL Connexions, Men's Matters and partners Slough Borough Council.

At each weekly session, over ten families attended and after the meal had been cooked, all of the family got to enjoy the tasty food.

We're already looking forward to working on other initiatives in the local area to help families and residents.



Community Garden Re-Vamp

We are always helping out the local community in whatever way we can.

The Community Team recently went to Teesdale Park in Britwell to paint a raised bed that had recently been installed. The bed had been donated from Gibbs and Dandy, and families were invited along to paint and decorate the bed and plant bulbs, ready to bloom in the spring.

Children who attended used a variety of materials to make the bed colourful, including

stencils and paint. The plant bed looked great and we are looking forward to seeing the flowers bloom in the spring!





Upcoming events

5th & 6th February - Slough Aspire Careers Fair
20th February - Estate Day
26th February - Mock Interview Workshop

w/c 2nd March - Work Experience Week with Langley Academy
3rd March - Industry Insight Day with Haybrook College
6th March - International Women's Day event
19th March - Estate Day

Community Matters

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