



## **Fact sheet for Round 2 Development Partnerships**

### **WEST MIDLANDS:**

**Adjust the balance** – This Development Partnership developed Work Life Balance (WLB) strategies in arenas not hitherto engaged with WLB. It developed products to support large and small businesses to assess the impact of their HR policies to support employee development and improve work force retention.

**Agender** – This Development Partnership promoted positive images of people in non-stereotyped jobs. It helped women and young females to aspire to higher level careers not traditionally associated with women's employment. It created local centres that offer support to women and girls, worked with employers to counter job segregation and gender pay inequality, developed new career pathways into non-traditional careers, and developed a marketing strategy to attract men into care occupations.

**Arts Participation for Employability (ArtsPEP)** –This Development Partnership used participative arts as a methodology in developing a range of tailor-made training and support opportunities to empower individuals with complex needs to access and remain in employment and to shape future training provision. This approach was developed to reduce discrimination and exclusion of the most disadvantaged groups such as offenders and disabled people by raising awareness among stakeholders.

**Asylum Seekers Pursuing Integration, Refuge and Empowerment (ASPIRE)** - This Development Partnership piloted creative ways to help individuals and organisations support people seeking asylum and ensuring that their time awaiting a decision was used constructively and enables them to prepare more effectively for their next step. It developed engagement techniques through mental health support, arts, performance and capacity building for refugee community organisations.

**Black Country Communities in the Lead (LEAD)** – This Development Partnership enabled local people to develop community businesses and social enterprises. It established methods of engaging with very hard to reach communities in order start building community enterprises.

**Engage** – This Development Partnership had a nationwide remit with regional operations in East of England, North East, South East, South West, and Yorkshire and Humberside, supporting offenders to access information, advice and guidance through the gate support following release and access to work placements. It also developed and tested innovative methods of engagement in community-based career/life planning and skills development, for non-traditional learners. It also focussed on Skills for Life and geographical areas of disadvantage, through an inclusive, client-centred approach meant to inform practice and influence policy at regional, national and European levels.

**Euro Enterprise Evolutions** –This Development Partnership researched and tested innovative ways of supporting and empowering people from disadvantaged groups in overcoming barriers and starting their own business. Research reports have been produced and disseminated looking at barriers to enterprise for women (Report entitled Risky Business?) and BME groups, exploring the potential of enterprise for offenders and the possibilities for social enterprises. As a result of the work carried out in the area of ‘women and enterprise’ Breathing Space, the DP lead partner, has been awarded Prowess status.

# **EQUAL Development Partnerships**

## **Contact Details:**

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