



BUSINESSES CELEBRATE 'BUILDING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES' IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Over 120 firms across Worcestershire attended the celebration the first anniversary of their Building Better Opportunities programme on the morning of Friday 10 November at Sixways Stadium hosted by Fusion and Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce.

Clare Jackson, Fusion Chair and Executive Director Housing, Care & Communities, Fortis Living

“This celebration event has brought together some key partners in Worcestershire and has showcased how Building Better Opportunities has made a real impact on many people’s lives, we are confident that the project will continue to deliver positive outcomes for participants in the future”

Vestia Community Trust led the work to establish Fusion who are helping local people to move into employment, improving their lives and securing the future prosperity of Worcestershire through the Building Better Opportunities project which is funded by the National Lottery, through the Big Lottery Fund, and the European Social Fund.

Supported by the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce, Fusion have invested in local projects tackling the root causes of poverty, promoting social inclusion and driving local jobs and growth. As well as helping those needing extra support into work, including people with disabilities, long term unemployed, adults with learning disabilities, ex-offenders and young people with no work experience.

One year on since the programme started businesses and key partners came together to celebrate the successes so far, including supporting 100 people back into work. Guests got to hear from a fantastic line up of speakers which included the Big Lottery Fund, The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, Chamber of Commerce and inspirational local firms who have benefited from the programme.

Sophia Haywood, Policy Manager at Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce, commented: “The Chamber were delighted to support Fusion again after the successful launch of the Charter for Inclusive Growth for employers last year. It’s great to see local businesses getting involved with the programme, supporting people back into work or into their first job. More and more Worcestershire firms struggle to recruit in a county with a below national average unemployment rate, so by taking the time to become more inclusive it allows businesses to harness unsung innovative talent – a process that is rewarding for the employee and the employer.”

Marina Banner – Executive Director – Vestia and Corporate Services, The Community Housing Group “We are delighted at the success of Building Better Opportunities and we are excited for the future possibilities for Worcestershire now that Fusion has been established”

For more information on the programme please contact one of the Building Better Opportunities team on fusion@vestia.org.uk or visit the website; www.fusionworcs.co.uk