

## Local charity provides 'green jobs' for the unemployed

Radford-based charity, the Partnership Council, has been awarded almost £78,000 worth of funding from the Government's new Future Jobs Fund and the Working Neighbourhoods Fund to provide eight apprentice style jobs for unemployed people in the city - including young people.

The eight will be Assistant Environmental Workers who will work with the charity and local people to develop and run a wide range of environmental projects across Nottingham.

Two of the eight started work at the Partnership Council this week with another due to start work very soon. The other five will take up their positions early next year.

The two are Joanna Beck and Susan Barker.

Joanna is already a keen volunteer and has worked voluntarily on a number of environmental projects and Susan Barker volunteers through the Partnership Council's Skills Exchange project, a skills share project where members volunteer their skills to help others.

The Future Jobs Fund aims to provide local people who have been unemployed for at least a year the chance to get involved in community environmental work - as well as in other sectors such as childcare, with around 75% of new jobs going to young people aged 18-24.

### **Ruth Greenberg, Chief Officer of the Partnership Council explains:**

*"Our new apprentices have already shown their commitment to the community by volunteering, so it's brilliant that we can now give something back to them by giving them a job where they can gain valuable work experience and learn new skills. It's lack of skills and work experience that often prevent people, especially young people, from finding a job in the first place so it's great we can do something to tackle this.*

*We've chosen to offer people jobs in community environmental work for two reasons. Firstly, the environmental sector is growing so it's a good sector for people to get involved in, from the point of view of finding long-term employment.*

*Secondly, the new jobs will benefit Nottingham as a whole, because the new roles mean we'll be able to expand our current environmental projects and set up new ones."*

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For example, the Partnership Council currently runs an environmental project called Sprout, which helps young people to set up their own 'green' projects. In addition, the charity is also involved in the development of parks and open spaces in the area and is leading the project to get the Forest Recreation Ground on Gregory Boulevard improved.

As a result of its environmental work, the Partnership Council has won 4 prestigious Green Guardians Awards presented annually by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in recognition of projects that benefit the environment in Nottinghamshire.

As a whole, Nottingham is being awarded £6.5 million from the Future Jobs Fund and £4.2 million from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund - bringing the total for new jobs in the city to £10.7 million.

It's hoped that the new funding will create around 2,000 new jobs for the long term unemployed, young people aged 18-24 and others who are disadvantaged in the job market.

Nottingham City Council and One Nottingham are distributing the funds to organisations like the Partnership Council, in the public and voluntary sectors, to create new jobs - with the aim that the jobs will also benefit Nottingham as a whole. The majority of the new jobs will be in the environmental and childcare sectors.

Nationally, the Government has allocated £1 billion to the Future Jobs Fund.

## **Ruth concludes:**

*"It's very exciting to be involved in this new initiative, I'm confident the money will help us transform not only the lives of the people we've employed, but also the lives of others they'll be helping via their work."*

**To find out more please contact Ruth Greenberg on 0115 970 8200  
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To find out more about the Partnership Council:

**<http://www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk>**

To find out more about the Future Jobs Fund:

**<http://campaigns.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund>**

To find out more about the Working Neighbourhoods Fund:

**<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/workingneighbourhoods>**

To find out more about One Nottingham:

**<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/onenottingham/index.aspx?articleid=4462>**

To find out more about Nottingham City Council:

**<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1>**

To find out more about the long-term future of the Environmental Jobs Market:

**<http://www.endsdirectory.com/index.cfm?action=articles.view&articleid=200901>**

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