

Project Summary: Broadening Futures Together

"Improving Life Chances and Aspirations in Hastings"

The Hastings Town Deal provides an opportunity to address Hastings' challenges caused by high levels of deprivation and health inequality. Broadening Futures Together creates a unique partnership between Education Futures Trust, a local charity experienced in engaging and supporting hard to reach groups, and Plumpton College, one of the UK's leading Further Education Colleges, experienced in developing urban areas into centres of academic excellence.

Broadening Futures Together, with Towns Fund investment of £352,000 will deliver £11.7m (NPV) of economic benefit to the town by implementing a skills escalator that will re-engage learners, currently distant from the education and employment markets, whilst providing support to overcome the complex and deep-rooted socio-economic challenges associated with the high levels of deprivation that many face.

The funding will enable Broadening Futures Together to deliver capital investment in one of the UK's most deprived wards, the Baird (IMD 2019), developing a 3-hectare semi-derelict site; creating opportunities for learning and skills development so individuals can realise their aspirations for educational progression and secure associated life skills and employment chances.

This innovative project will bind together the expertise, knowledge, innovation and resource of Plumpton College and the connections, experience, and relationships built by Education Futures Trust. The partnership will bring a new dynamism to Hastings where statutory and charitable educational establishments work in equal partnership to bring about transformational change, embedding physical connections between the town centre and deprived wards.

Utilising the new education centre Broadening Futures Together will deliver a mixture of training opportunities, led by Plumpton College that will include:

- short engagement courses aimed at preparing 350 participants annually to progress to further study and preparedness for greater independent living;
- part-time education and training courses increasing progress to further studies (skills escalator) and increasing employability opportunities of participants.

The project will deliver a significant rise in training opportunities and outcomes by increasing capacity at the Firs enabling a new Further Education provider to deliver land-based training leading to improved attainment levels, aspirations and earning potential. In addition to the improved economic benefit and productivity of marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the community, the project will also address significant socio-economic challenges leading to improved life chances and healthier lifestyles, resulting in substantial savings for local public agencies.

Broadening Futures Together will commence a 'soft start' to provision, supporting the ramp-up to full delivery. In the first instance, this will include the introduction of the Sector-Based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPS), short courses and taster sessions as a precursor to the full academic provision in September. These programmes are designed to help improve the job prospects of unemployed learners and help employers fill vacancies where there is local demand.

Our children. Our families. Our community.

Registered Charity Number: 1146171

Company Number: 7852922