

Working together with the Business Community



BUILD is a Norfolk based independent registered charity providing social, leisure and learning opportunities for adults and young people with disabilities.

BUILD, was established in the 1960's to support adults and young people with learning difficulties – the modern term used to describe people who in the past have been called “mentally handicapped” or “having special needs”. This may mean they find it difficult to learn new things or to adapt their behaviour to different situations. People might recognise Down's Syndrome or Autism as examples of learning difficulties.

BUILD's aims are to build equality, confidence and opportunity for people with disabilities so that they can take part in an active community life. This is facilitated through a range of services ranging from social activities, as individuals, or in small or large groups, to educational workshops and involvement in leading innovative research and consultancy work for clients such as HM Prison, the John Lewis Partnership, and Victim Support. A full range of **BUILD's** services, and current programmes, are available at www.buildcharity.co.uk

BUILD is a key part of the Norfolk community, as are the people who use its services, and that explains why in recent years **BUILD** has sought a closer relationship with local businesses. As an active member of the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, **BUILD** staff regularly network with other business leaders and have previously contributed to the Chamber's “Workwise” project helping school leavers understand more about the world of work. **BUILD** also hosts regular placements for Norfolk Constabulary's student Police Officers.

BUILD is keen to work more with the business community and understands its responsibilities in respect of partnership working. This document sets out some of the services that **BUILD** can offer to business partners, and some of the services it is looking to benefit from, to help develop its work further.

What does BUILD have to offer Businesses?

BUILD Training and Skills Services – **BUILD** manages a small group of adults with disabilities supported by a staff facilitator, who carry out research and consultancy work looking into customer service delivery, promotional material, accessibility issues, and customer awareness to help businesses maximise their products and services to an audience of disabled people that have around £60bn of annual spending power in the UK. **BUILD's** Training and Skills Services can design, and deliver a range of training workshops for staff, managers or volunteers to improve your businesses' understanding of this significant spending audience.

Volunteering Opportunities to develop your staff - **BUILD** is supported by around 120 volunteers ranging in roles from leading cookery workshops through our social

programmes, or helping us in our back-office functions with things like Personnel, Legal and Accountancy advice to our Board of Trustees. Volunteering is proven to improve an individual's levels of personal confidence, self worth, communication and soft skills – all key attributes to any employer, particularly when professional training and development budgets are tight.

Job Shadowing / role swapping / work experience – Spend a day or two alongside our staff, or Chief Executive, as part of a staff development programme and see how self-management, flexible working, and advocacy can really work in a fun working environment where everyone knows their role, and their responsibilities in supporting colleagues for the wider benefit of the business. This provides an excellent opportunity for staff to see a very different working environment – and the need for flexibility in the workplace. In difficult economic times, this no cost training can be invaluable in staff development.

What can Businesses do for BUILD?

Make us your charity – Many businesses now chose one charity to support each year, chosen by their staff and encourage their staff and customers to raise money and the profile of the charity. Why not make BUILD your next charity of the year? We can help organise and promote events with you. We particularly need sponsorship for people on low incomes, who are ineligible for public sector funding support.

Volunteer Recruitment – why not allow us access to your workplace, in-house newsletter to run a volunteer recruitment campaign from within your staff and customers? It makes sense and benefits us both in the longer term.

In-kind services – If you are a supplier of products or services that BUILD uses, eg transport, office supplies, meeting rooms or conference facilities, ICT, legal advice, accountancy, printing, or marketing, your business could donate a quantity of time or product to help BUILD, or arrange a discounted purchase scheme to help us make our money go further. Sometimes the free use of a meeting room, or training facility can make a huge difference to our bottom line.

Introductions – We all know its networking that matters in a competitive world, so why not help us broaden our networks, by tapping into some of yours. We are unlikely to have a competitive product or service, so there is no harm in sharing a good address book.

Sponsorship – Your business could help sponsor our quarterly News magazine (£500 per edition) or our Annual Review. Our volunteers need new corporate shirts – could you sponsor those?

How can you find out more?

Please contact BUILD's Chief Executive, James Kearns via james.kearns@buildcharity.co.uk or call 01603 618029 to arrange a coffee and a chat about how mutual benefits might be achieved.