PPP Timebank – Goodlives Project

Supporting the community with skills-based volunteering

What is the Programme and Project Partners (PPP)?

Sellafield is home to the largest and most complex nuclear facility in the United Kingdom, and what was once the first commercial nuclear power station, is now cleaning up the birthplace of the UK’s nuclear industry. With an annual spend of £2.2bn, the UK Government expects Sellafield Ltd to deliver projects faster and provide better value for money for the taxpayer. In response, Sellafield Ltd created an industry-leading approach to procurement, forming the Programme and Project Partners (PPP). Sellafield Ltd has one of the most complex portfolios of construction projects in the world. In pursuit of its mission to create a clean and safe environment for future generations, PPP is responsible for delivering projects faster and with better value for money. The partnership brings together KBR, Jacobs, Morgan Sindall Infrastructure, Altrad Babcock and Sellafield Ltd, as one team, to deliver up to £7 billion of critical national infrastructure, differently, over a span of 20 years.

What was the challenge that needed to be solved?

Goodlives is a project focussing on helping unemployed people to break down their barriers and help them with the next step on their personal ladder. As part of this, Goodlives has a site which is used to commercially grow crops and plants. To maximise the benefit of the site and therefore support the charity, a number of physical improvements were needed for site development. Rather than funding, the charity required skilled volunteers to enable them to reach its goals.

What was the goal or objective of the scheme?

PPP Timebank is the method for the coordination of skill-based volunteering within the PPP and its supply chain. Volunteering in a co-ordinated way is a key form of community engagement. It is an expectation that the supply chain will commit corporate volunteering time towards key PPP social impact initiatives.

Goodlives is a 1.6 acre site on West Lakes Science Park, Cumbria, donated by BEC, and is run by the charity, Home to Work. Home to Work was set up to focus on supporting our local and wider community, building economic growth by encouraging the economically inactive to re-engage. Some really struggle with poor mental health and Goodlives is a great place to have some focus and learn new skills. Its also a great place to have some calm and ‘time out’ when this is needed. The vision for the GoodLives project is to have an extensive community garden covering the full site.

Who was involved?

Many different PPP at Sellafield suppliers came together to support Goodlives and get the site into a good position to enable their mission. These companies included: Kaefer, Severfield, Alegco and OneAim (Jacobs and Mitie JV).

What approach was taken?

PPP at Sellafield worked with its supply chain to find volunteers with the skills needed to get the site into the desired state:

* Kaefer volunteers supported in weed clearance and the building of the first polytunnel and are planning to support the building of the next three.
* Jacobs volunteers addressed a flooding issue on a core part of the site. This involved digging trenches through the site and adding water pipes to support the flow of water and prevent the main area from continued flooding.
* Severfield made a donation of £2,000 to fund the purchasing of equipment for the site. Alegco donated a port a cabin to the site – which is used as the main welfare unit.

Who else? What did they do? Was there any funding?

Were there any risks to overcome?

Within Cumbria, the third sector is often able to access funding but doesn’t always have access to the skills to enable use of the funding. There was a risk that the PPP supply chain would not have the required skills or have volunteers available in the timescales needed. For this project, there was a race to get the site developments in place before the winter weather significantly impacted crop growth.

What was the outcome?

After 12 months, 30 volunteers, and £15,000 of funding (cash and gifted assets), the Goodlives site is now into phase 2 producing crops and supporting 30 local people to develop the skills they need around employment and mental health.