Welcome

The Supported Business Alliance:
One year on
Presenters

- Linda McIntyre - Watford Workshop
- Sarah Sharlott – Realise Futures
- Peter Keeley - Industrial Services Group (ISG)
- Richard Welfoot - Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind (MTIB)
Agenda

1. The Alliance – a short presentation
2. The Alliance website and marketing
3. Breakout groups
4. Feedback from the groups
5. Questions, feedback
6. Close
The Alliance Core Steering Group

- CLARITY
- Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind (MTIB)
- Realise Futures
- Watford Workshops
- Industrial Services Group
- Pluss
What is a Supported Business?

• A service where more than 50% of the workers are disabled persons who by reason of the nature or severity of their disability are unable to take up work in the open labour market.

• Is Supportive a better description?
Why form the Alliance?

• Improve Government Understanding of what we do
• Definition of the brand of Supported Business (distinct from Remploy)
• Need to strengthen and develop our role within future disability employment programmes
• Demonstrate we are not an out dated “ah Bless” service
Adding strength: The Alliance

The Alliance believes that ALL disabled people should have the opportunity of sustained employment regardless of the complexity of their barriers.

The Alliance believes that Supported Businesses provide a valuable option for some disabled people in the achievement of this overall objective.
The Alliance: shared values

Shared core values:

- Real jobs
- Holistic support
- Independence
- Peer-to-peer support
- Commercial
- Changing perception
- Innovation
- Sustainability
Alliance Members to date

Cefndy Healthcare & Manufacturing
CLARITY (GWB)
County Print Finishers
E-Cycle Ltd
Industrial Services Group (ISG)
ISCAL
Monwel Limited
Moorland Plastics
MTIB
Newco

Norman Industries
Pathway Workshop
Pluss
RBLI
Realise Futures
Tremorvah Industries
Vision Products
Watford Workshop
White Crystal
Yorkcraft
History and achievements 1

- July 2013 Initial working Group Established
- July 2014 Secretary of State visit to CLARITY
- February 2015 Visit by Kevin Keenan (DWP Lead on Disability Employment) to CLARITY
- May 2015 Creation of our strategy to ensure the successful future of Supported Business
History and achievements 2

• Protected place funding extended until April 2017
• Re-kindled Governments interest in Supported Business as a viable entity within Work Programmes
• Direct engagement with Secretary of State and Senior DWP Officials
• Improved mutual understanding of what can be achieved from future DWP programmes
The Alliance: next priorities

- Second Submission to DWP made and follow up planned
- Formation of the Alliance as a potential Special Purpose Vehicle for future bidding activity
- Use of Social Return On Investment Model to demonstrate the value of Supported Business
- Attendance at all Consultation events on future DWP programme developments
Securing our future

- The businesses have an important part to play in the future of specialist disability employment delivery
- We continue to align ourselves with the aims of BASE
- We will forge stronger partnerships with Social Enterprise UK, Social Firms England, and associated Trade Bodies and Campaigning Organisations
The Supported Business Alliance website and marketing

www.discoverthepotential.org
Breakout activity

**Group one – commercial opportunities**
How can the remaining supported businesses work together to secure future contracts?

**Group two – Government and policy makers**
How can we make supported businesses the model of choice for disabled people, government bodies, and employers?

**Group three – employment**
How could the transition from supported business to mainstream employment be made easier to drive increases in job outcomes?

**Group four – the future**
What effect will the change from minimum wage to living wage have on the employment of disabled people?
Feedback from the groups

Overview and summary
Thank you for attending and for your contribution today