



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 07**

### **PATHS TO EMPLOYMENT**

Wondering 'What Next?' after a break in career? Looking to get back into employment but unsure how to do so? Considering starting a business in order to earn again?

If so, this can be daunting, but also exciting. So a bespoke, flexible coaching service, made available free of charge through an ESF funded, Surrey Global Grant may be just the opportunity you need to get started!

Up to 10 hours of career or/and business coaching is being provided to Godalming residents who are currently not in paid work, to develop their confidence, skills and potential to move towards employment. Alchemy in Company and Enterprise First, two local companies, are working together with St Mark's Community Centre to deliver the project. Through flexible provision and support, they are ensuring that individuals from the widest range of backgrounds and experiences can access the service and benefit from it.

'We expect clients will want to take steps to return to employment part or full time or who want to start working for themselves in some way. We expect there to be people who will be completely unclear about what they want to do next and others who have a very clear idea but need support in making that happen.'

Lucia Bardoul from Alchemy in Company strongly believes that 'Paths to Employment' will inspire its participants. "Starting back after having children, taking a career break, caring for others, or trying something completely different, can be difficult."

The flexibility and tailored approach of this programme is unique. It is personal, professionally delivered and highly practical. Everything is being done to make this programme accessible and useful to participants in overcoming barriers to employment.

Participants currently receiving the service are delighted. Helen Owen of Zest in Godalming stated “I have been given a truly independent view on my ideas and plans. The coaching played a pivotal role in enabling me to successfully follow up my idea of creating a quality facility which focuses on the health and fitness of women.”

Reported benefits of the coaching include improved confidence, self-esteem, focus, motivation, and ability to sell one-self.

The programme ends in March 2007. To secure a place call Claire on 01252 319272, mentioning ‘Paths to Employment’, as soon as possible.

