



Case Study: EJV Aspire CIC

EJV Aspire CIC – focus on nurturing young people's strengths to pave the way for successful outcomes in employment, education, and adulthood.

In Tameside, EJV Aspire CIC noticed a need for supporting young females who are face various disadvantages that prevent them from accessing education or lacking social and emotional support. It was a model they had been working on for over 12 months, using their experience working in further education for adult students. However, lacked confidence to push it over the line.

They had their project prepared and had started to work with some young females. However, the barrier was the business planning itself and the financial forecasting to make sure the CIC remained sustainable and could continue to offer our services. They had many ideas but uncertainty where to start, what order and in some cases how. They knew that the cause would make a huge difference within the community but the responsibility of doing it correctly loomed over them, as they wanted to get it right for the community they serve.

They wanted to make sure that their vision and the needs of their community were clearly explained to the bigger service providers they were meeting with.

A clear business plan and corporate strategy ensure that their work is purposeful, sustainable, and impactful. They show funders, partners, and the community that they have a well-defined vision, a roadmap to achieve it, and the ability to manage resources effectively.

Jonathan from Action Together linked us in with Jonathan Baker who is a CIC consultant to support us with these documents and help with direction.

E26 Thematic Areas:

EJV Aspire CIC worked collaboratively with Jonathan to write a solid business plan and from which they could use as a starting point. He factored in costings and beneficiaries. Pricing structures and sustainability. Along with an excel spreadsheet that has helped the organisation manage all of their overheads and for them to remain financially sustainable. He made sure that he captured future plans and ideas, how these can work and a timeframe for these to happen. Overall, this left the organisation with a solid plan. One that they have been able to share amongst staff and volunteers, but also external providers that they have been able to collaborate with. It gave these service providers an element of trust and understanding so that they felt comfortable paying for their services knowing what we provide and how their funds are spent.

During this time and with the support of Action Together, we were also able to collaborate with other non-profit organisations in the Tameside area.

Outcomes:

The organisation have secured a premises where they are able to work with our target community.

They have a team of staff and have just employed an apprentice studying Level 3 Youth Mentorship.

Due to commissioning they have received from our local council and local schools, they have been able to use their surplus to bring more young people into our vocational education classes and bring forward their future plans, meaning they can work with more members of the community.

Insights and Lessons:

The organisation report to have found a new found confidence in planning and ideas, which had previously been one of their biggest barriers. Emily reports that having people involved who share your values has been a huge motivation to grow her community business.



1-1 focussed time to build a solid business plan, alongside someone with the expertise, and safe space to ask questions and do some of the bigger thinking has been invaluable for Emily, her organisation and her own leadership skills.

Reflections:

"Overall, I cannot thank Action Together and Jonathan enough. Without them, none of this would be possible. We been able to make a huge impact on Tameside's young people and their families in such a short space of time, truly making a difference that can positively change lives." Emily Milner, EVJ CIC.

Link: <https://evjaspire.co.uk/>

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