

October 2013

A busy beginning of Autumn

As the weather begins to change, we look forward to our upcoming Autumn events and activities including our Annual Conference, our continuing mentoring programme and of course our updated Challenge Calendar which many have been very busy with in the last quarter...

Slough Business Community Partnership's Annual Conference – November 28th 2013

Slough Business Community Partnership will be holding its next Annual Conference on Thursday 28th November at the Hilton T5 hotel. The theme of this year's Conference is 'How your employees can make a difference' and will look at the considerable impact being made in the community and the benefits of having volunteering as part of business culture. Katie Hyson, the Think Big Internal Manager from Telefónica UK O2, will be talking about a review O2 carried out that looks into the positive and financial impacts of employees getting involved in community activities.

Rafiq Chohan, Chairman of SBCP said "The SBCP Conference this year promises to be a stimulating and exciting event and one which will help to reinforce the benefits of 'How your employees can make a difference'. Telefónica UK O2 one of the World's leading telecoms and digital businesses will be sharing their insights from their own research with our business community."

"At SBCP we have long identified the merits of improved motivation amongst employees by engaging with their local communities. Often this is more rewarding than a pay increase or other financial incentives. We continue to be impressed with the growing level of interest and commitment from businesses which is critically important at a time of austerity and heightened cynicism from the wider population about business ethics."

Through the Conference we will be looking to encourage more businesses to engage in our activities that are helping to tackle key issues affecting those people who live, learn and work in Slough.

If you would be interested in attending the event please contact us on: 01753 696958 or email bob@sbcpc.co.uk.



Delegates hear from Ronan Dunne - CEO of Telefónica UK O2 - at last year's Annual Conference

New members

SBCP would like to welcome our new members:



We look forward to working with Iris Software Solutions, Logicalis, Copthorne Hotel Slough and Creativity in Sport!

Business 2 Community Skills event - Best Practice

Another insightful Business to Community Skills event was held on 3rd October 2013 for our local charity & community groups. These events provide an opportunity for groups to hear about business development topics from a business perspective and use this information to benefit their organisation.

Mariam Rafiq of Resource Productions delivered an interactive workshop on Event Management encouraging attendees to give their input on past event management experiences and some top tips on delivering successful events. Stuart Page, Health and Safety Manager at SEGRO updated the



Stuart Page of SEGRO updating attendees on the latest Health and Safety advice

group on Health & Safety policy and important issues charities need to be aware of and Andy Davies, CEO of Ntegra - an IT Consultancy - talked about Cloud Computing and its practical use in the third sector.

We would like to thank our speakers for their time and support and also thank the attendees for taking part in another great event.

If you would like to help at a future event by speaking on a particular business development area to help a group of local charities, please contact: Noreen Mian on noreen@sbcpc.co.uk or 01753 696958.

'Health needs of a Changing Workforce'

SBCP in conjunction with members of the Slough Working Well Group delivered another informative event where speakers talked about 'Health needs of a Changing Workforce'. With a 29% of employers seeing a rise in the average age of employees and 37% of employers expecting to see their workforce get older in the future, it was a relevant topic of discussion. The event looked at some of the health and social trends that may impact on the productivity of businesses in Slough over the coming decade and what we can do today to be ready for tomorrow.

Helen Wray, Occupational Health & Wellbeing Manager at Mars Chocolate UK talked about the demands on workforces in the future talking to delegates from businesses about the inextricable link between wellbeing and productivity. Looking at the three main inhibitors to economic growth - aging, non-communicable disease and talent shortage - she said that "Employee health is an investment, not a cost". Dr Ahmed, Specialty Registrar in Occupational Medicine, delivered an insightful presentation on the health issues that might impact on organisations in the future due to specific age related issues and Rajiv Joshi, Associate at Morgan Cole LLP focused on the Legal considerations in relation to the workforce including abolition of default retirement age and flexible working requests.

The Slough Working Well group will be holding four events next year.

If you are interested in attending the next event please contact Bob@sbcpc.co.uk or call 01753 696958.



Business Mentoring Programme Celebrates Success!

"Mentoring is powerful!" was one of the messages that came out of the Business Mentoring Programme Celebration on Thursday 12th September, 2013. Representatives from local businesses and charities came together to celebrate the success of the Business Mentoring Programme - a project funded through the Transforming Local Infrastructure from the Cabinet Office and delivered by Slough Business Community Partnership (SBCP) and Slough Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS). The programme presents an opportunity for employees from local businesses to use their skills and expertise to provide support and guidance to a manager of a voluntary group.

Delegates came together to share their experiences of the mentoring programme and were presented with certificates in recognition of their commitment to the programme. The feedback demonstrated how mentors have benefited at a personal and professional level and the mentees gained invaluable insight and guidance from a different perspective. Both groups of stakeholders felt they would use the skills gained in the future. Regarding further outcomes of the programme Ramesh Kukar (CEO of SCVS) said "Some of the charities that have been mentored have reported to me that access to a business person has improved their ability to generate income and deliver a better service".

Rafiq Chohan (Chairman of SBCP) said "SBCP is very proud of this flagship mentoring project which we have led working with SCVS, voluntary organisations and senior managers and leaders in the Slough Business Community. We look forward now to taking this project forward to ensure that business and voluntary organisations continue to benefit. Most importantly the additional support continues to enhance service provision to some of the most vulnerable in our society."

SBCP would be interested to hear from anybody who would like to take part in the Mentoring Programme. Please contact us to find out more: 01753 696958.



Helen Richardson from Mars Chocolate UK receiving a certificate from Rafiq Chohan (SBCP Chairman) and Jamie Green (SCVS Chairman)

New Website

Come and visit SBCP's new Website that was launched earlier on in this quarter. We would like to thank Goldteam Recruitment who supported us in developing the site and Little Black Dog who have been providing the on-going support and hosting the site for us! You can view the site at:

[SBCP.CO.UK](http://www.sbc.co.uk).

You can now follow SBCP on:



Challenge Calendar Updates

A new Challenge Calendar for November 2013 - January 2014 is now available! If you or your colleagues wish to take part in a challenge - big or small - get in touch now by contacting Noreen Mian on noreen@sbcpc.co.uk.

The last quarter has been a busy one with **34** Community Challenges being completed! Here are just a few of the projects that were undertaken by employee volunteers from our member businesses:



Provided two fantastic teams to help with ground maintenance work at a struggling Rugby Club in Slough. The teams took to painting and updating the grounds and the outcomes were greatly appreciated by the club and its users



A Heathrow employee will be giving their time to become a Governor at a local Slough School



have donated office furniture to various local charities & community groups

An enthusiastic team from amazon.co.uk helped with ground maintenance at the Animal Sanctuary. Diana Coad, Head Trustee the Animal Sanctuary UK said "Without the amazing work with local businesses, many of our animals would not have shelter right now, this in turn helps the many disabled and vulnerable people who benefit from learning trust and unconditional love from our animal residents".



Donated several computer towers to various charities in Slough.



Are catching their breath after they entered 9 employees into the Synthetix Run for the Homeless - they are still fundraising & have already raised over £100 for the London & Slough Run (a local homeless charity) . They also donated items towards goodie bags!

A loan ranger from  returned to help maintain a garden that he updated last year for an elderly Cross roads client. The client was extremely happy with the outcome.



Donated dozens of box files and lever arch folders to various charities and community organisations around Slough!

When a team from  decided to take on a garden renovation project at Wexham Park Hospital they had no idea of the sentimental value of the task. One of the hospital staff who used to work in a department near to the garden passed away last year "Elaine used this garden as her own until she sadly passed away. We then struggled to maintain it's upkeep along side doing our very busy day jobs, so it became over grown." says her colleague at the hospital. Following a planned day of activities the garden was restored and family and friends were invited for the unveiling of a plaque donated by the team.



Team from LeasePlan at Wexham Park Hospital



Donated warm clothing to Slough Homeless Our Concern

Since April 2013 over 500 volunteers from SBCP member businesses have helped over 21,500 Slough residents through over 2,500 volunteer hours.

What's next?

- **SBCP AGM:** 21st November 2013 at 1.30pm
- **SBCP Annual Conference:** How people can make a difference - 28th November, from 5.30pm
- **Business Meeting:** Government Workplace Pensions and the impact on companies and the voluntary sector - 18th December 2013

If you would like more information contact us: bob@sbcpc.co.uk or 01753 696958.