



W DUNBARTONSHIRE PROJECT SEARCH X MAS NEWSLETTER



Spotlight of the Week: Clare English, Employability Leader



This month, we sat down with Clare English from W4U to uncover her inspiring journey and insights into supporting communities. Clare shares her passion for making a difference and the innovative approaches W4U is taking to empower individuals. Don't miss her full interview.

Breaking New Ground: Tune Into Our Debut Podcast



Stephen Brooks, Manager of Employability in West Dunbartonshire, joined us as the first guest on our podcast, and told us he's passionate about helping people unlock their potential and loves seeing the positive impact these programs have on individuals and communities.

The episode will be uploaded for streaming shortly—don't miss it!

Project Search Showcase



We were thrilled to host our end-of-year showcase celebrating the incredible achievements of our Project Search participants. The event highlighted their hard work, growth, and the skills they've developed throughout the first few months of the program. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on their journey and share success stories that truly inspire.

The showcase was very well attended, with family, friends, and staff from W4U coming together to support and celebrate the participants. The atmosphere was filled with pride and excitement as everyone applauded the progress made and the bright futures ahead. Thank you to all who joined us and made the event such a memorable occasion!

Spotlight of the Week: Clare English, Employability Leader**1. How long have you been in this role?**

Worked with West Dun Council since 2013. Before this I worked for a charity for 5 years as well as with health clubs and hotels. I have a degree in sport, psychology and sociology.

2. What are the hardest and best parts of the job?

Hearing about people we support and what they've been through. Seeing how support has helped them e.g. helped move them out of poverty and into education.

3. When did you start Project Search?

2 years ago we started the Project SEARCH pilot. There are a few other Local Authorities working on the project and so we looked at the data in West Dun, took a visit to Renfrewshire to see how they ran the programme and decided this was something that was need in the area.

4. What is your favourite part of Project Search?

Meeting everyone and the interview day. Hearing everyone's stories.

5. Was your career journey planned?

When I left school I did ok and went to work at Aggreko but while I was there I thought "I can't do this for the rest of my life". I decided to do an HNC at Anniesland and then went to University in Liverpool to study my degree at 23. Everyone has a different path.

6. How many people do you manage?

72 staff at W4U and I am responsible for 34

7. What is your favourite quote?

Fave quote – double, double, toil and trouble. My husband thought it was bubble bubble toil and trouble.

8. Do you prefer dogs or cats?

Dogs over cats. I have a dog called Holly.

9. What is your favourite restaurant?

My favourite restaurant is Eusebi Deli in Woodlands

10. What is your dream car?

My dream car would be a Volkswagen camper van

11. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

In 5 years time I would like to be doing the same job as I would like to see how people progress.

Project Search collected for WD Foodbank



This Christmas, Project Search West Dunbartonshire partnered with the WD Foodbank to help those in need—and we achieved our goal! The foodbank has worked tirelessly for years to support the community. Claire Coyle, the manager, shared that she has been leading efforts for over 10 years alongside dedicated volunteers and core staff who operate five days a week, delivering a week's worth of food to those who need it. They don't stop at food—they also collect school clothing, toys, and toiletries. Claire noted that while support is strong during the festive season, additional donations are often needed in the spring and summer months.



They also look for nappies to be donated and often face a shortfall in sizes 5, 6, and 7.

To help, Project Search had set up drop-off points at their Levingrove Park facility and were grateful for all donations received. Items collected included canned food, cereals, rice and pasta, sauces, coffee and teas, sugar, as well as baby essentials like nappies and baby food jars. They also gathered toys for young children.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed—your support truly made this initiative a success!



We hope you enjoyed the festive season—here's to a bright and happy New Year!

We're always looking to build meaningful connections with individuals and local organisations who share our passion for inclusive employment. Whether you're an employer, community partner, or someone who simply wants to support our journey, we'd love to hear from you.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact us — together, we can make a real difference.
Email: projectsearch@westdunbarton.gov.uk