

# Making a difference, together

Chesterfield's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) –  
the story so far

January 2025



**CHESTERFIELD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Funded by**  
**UK Government**

**We're working together to improve the future for our people, and our places**



## Foreword



Councillor **Tricia Gilby**

**Chesterfield is a place built on long-standing and far-reaching partnership networks, which are underpinned by a shared commitment to put our communities first.**

We work together effectively to make a difference to the lives of people who live, work, study, visit and do business here – and are well positioned to make the most of the opportunities in front of us now, and in the future.

It's this shared vision, commitment, and drive to make things happen, that has been at the heart of our successful UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) story so far.

In spring 2022 Chesterfield Borough Council secured a total of £2.693m to deliver a range of priority projects from December 2022 to March 2025. Our aspirations were set out in our investment plan to Government under the three key themes of the UKSPF initiative:

### **Communities and place**

#### **Supporting local business**

#### **People and skills**

The council was identified as the lead authority for delivery – and we moved quickly to assemble key partners to form the UKSPF External Partnership Board, and ensure joint working was at the centre of our approach.

Together we joined forces with a whole host of other local partners from the public, private, business, community and voluntary sectors to bring our shared plans to life and make a real difference on the ground.

From budding business brains taking the first step to making their dreams a reality, to long-standing local entrepreneurs building on existing success, our UKSPF business-focussed initiatives are helping drive growth, jobs, skills and innovation across the borough – building a lasting legacy for success.

Under the communities and place theme, we're supporting our people and places to thrive, with grassroots projects which are touching lives across all generations and within some of the most deprived areas in our borough – reigniting a sense of community and connection.

And at the heart of our work under the people and skills theme is opportunity; providing tailored employment and skills support to break down the barriers to work, or offer support to cultivate career aspirations for the future.

It is a great privilege to act as Chair of this partnership. As we approach our final year of delivery, we're looking back at our collective achievements so far – and reflecting on the power of partnerships to make a lasting impact.

### **Councillor Tricia Gilby**

Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council and  
Chair of the UKSPF External Partnership Board

# Communities and place

We're helping people feel safer, healthier and be more active - supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities, while contributing to our target to become a carbon neutral borough by 2050.



**295**  
volunteering opportunities supported



**225**  
volunteers have received training



**201**  
community organisations have received advice



**5**  
park facilities improved



**13**  
new mobile CCTV cameras



**15%**  
reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents



**6**  
defibrillators installed at parks



**£223,000**  
community grants awarded to local organisations





We're making a difference in Chesterfield  
thanks to money from the Community Grants Fund



322 likes



# Treasures Nursery – supporting a stronger start in life

Theme: **Communities and Place – community grants scheme**

Project: **Treasures Nursery, Staveley**

Support: **Community grant award of £3,746**

Delivery partners: **Chesterfield Borough Council, Edge Ministries, Treasure Nursery**

## How are we making a difference?

Forty-five grants totalling £223,000 have been awarded to community organisations across the borough through the community grants scheme. In addition, 295 volunteering opportunities have been supported. This has exceeded the total project target of 100.

The mini allotment project at Treasures Nursery in Staveley is one example of the how this investment is supporting local children – many from low-income families and who have no outside space at home.

Through practical sessions on the allotment, youngsters are learning about fresh home-grown food and healthy, balanced diets.

Kitted out with safety gear and tools provided by the project, and protected by a new outdoor shelter, the children get stuck in to plant, grow and harvest their own fruit and veggies – learning valuable new skills and knowledge through fun and practical activities.

**“We are a charitable organisation providing childcare and education to children up to five years. We have created a mini allotment on a piece of land at the back of Edge Ministries.**

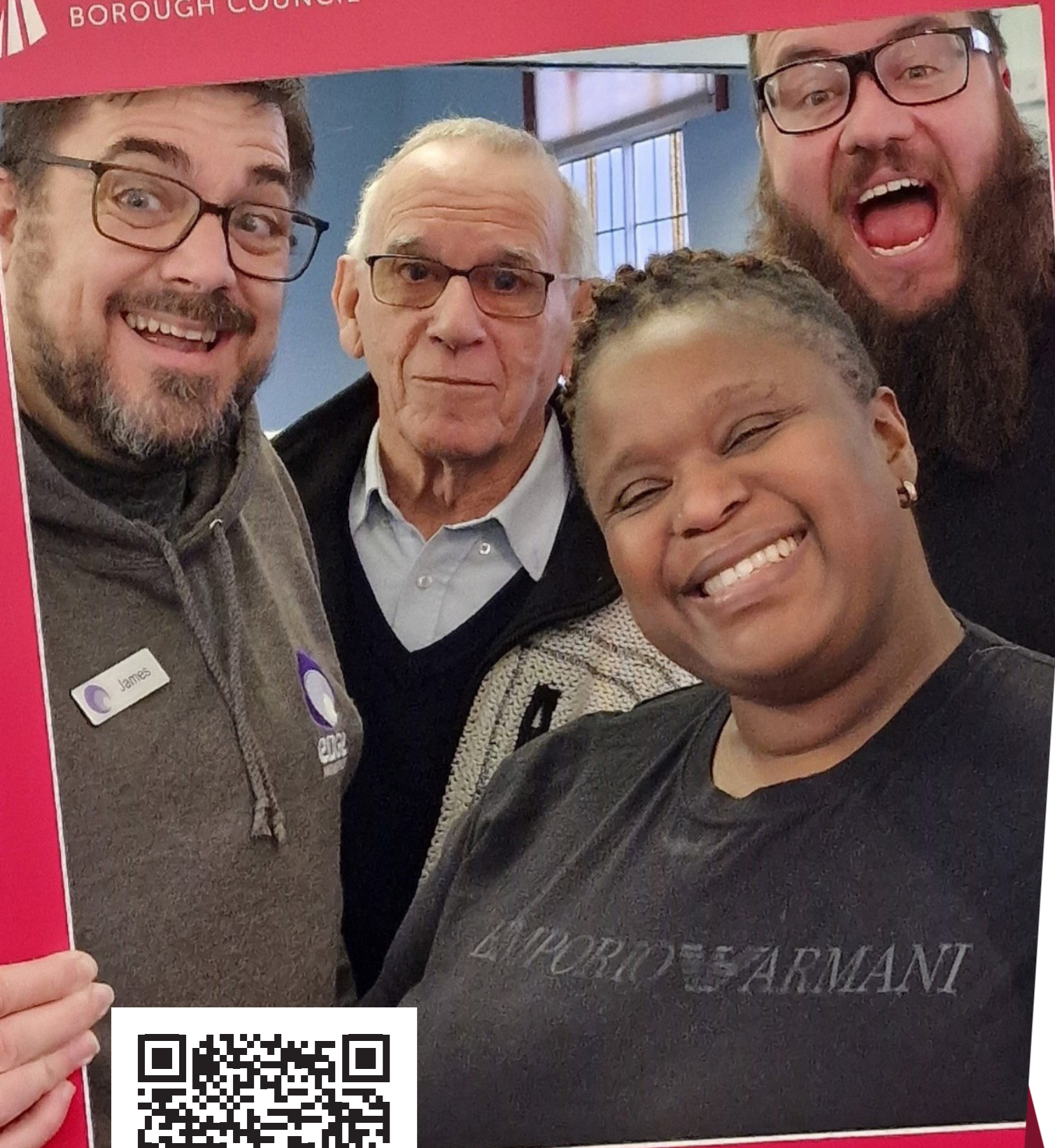
**“Some children show a low understanding of where healthy food comes from. Many don’t have a balanced diet, and also live in flats or have no useable green space at home. The children show great enjoyment and enthusiasm in looking after the allotment.”**

Caroline Cardall, Early Years Lead at Treasures Nursery

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## Community development support – investing in the future of vulnerable communities

Theme: **Edge Ministries, Poolsbrook Club Community Committee, Duckmanton Miners Welfare**

Project: **Edge Ministries, Poolsbrook Club Community Committee, Duckmanton Miners Welfare**

Delivery partners: **Chesterfield Borough Council, Edge Ministries, Poolsbrook Club Community Committee, Duckmanton Miners Welfare, Community Development Poolsbrook, Community Development Duckmanton**

### How are we making a difference?

Our community development programme is helping to grow community-led projects with local groups and organisations at their core – providing help and hope to some of the borough's most vulnerable communities.

Partners are working with former mining communities like Duckmanton and Poolsbrook to improve local services and activities, and bring people together to re-build strong local connections and create a shared vision for the future.

In Staveley, UKSPF grant funding is helping Edge Ministries work with Poolsbrook Club Community Committee in Duckmanton to create a stronger community focus. See the smiles being raised by this project in our video case study by scanning the QR code on the opposite page.

This strand of work continues to provide support to the voluntary sector with 201 organisations supported since the programme started – exceeding the total project target of 120.

“This funding has helped us to deploy some of our team to Duckmanton on a Monday to run an open living room warm welcome space. We offer unlimited tea and coffee and good chat, along with toast and biscuits - all completely free of charge and with a friendly smile!

“We love hanging out with people who live in Ducky - and work out how else we may be able to serve them and support the community - both practically and spiritually.”

Karen Tullett, CEO of Edge Ministries



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## Peddler market – bringing Chesterfield town centre to life

Theme: **Communities and Place** – enhanced events programme

Project: **Peddler Market – Chesterfield town centre**

Delivery partners: **Chesterfield Borough Council, Peddler Market**

### How are we making a difference?

A buzzing town centre full of families, friends, good food and good times – boosting businesses, giving residents a new weekend experience on their doorstep, and pulling in visitors from around the area.

This was the impact of Chesterfield's very own Peddler Market which, thanks to UKSPF funding and a successful partnership between the council and the renowned street food market operator, saw five hugely popular events enliven one of the town's historic market squares.

Thousands of people packed out New Square to make memories and soak up the atmosphere of the events which took place between June 2023 and July 2024 – with music, street food and family fun and games running from Friday evenings to Saturday nights.

Surrounding businesses – including independent shops, bars and pubs – saw increased footfall during the event weekends, and residents and visitors alike told us that the events have helped them rediscover Chesterfield.

Of those who took part in our event surveys, around 90% said they would like to see more events like this happening in Chesterfield.

**“It's brilliant – I'd definitely come to Chesterfield just for this.”**

**“A fantastic event – it brings the town to life.”**

**“It was fantastic for the kids. Please keep doing it.”**

**“It's an exciting time for Chesterfield - it's great to see the town come back to life!”**

Some sample comments from our survey

**“Brilliant event and something which you would only normally get in a city centre.”**

**PEDDLER**

# Creating safer communities

Theme: **Communities and Place – community safety initiatives**

Project: **Uniformed enforcement team, , CCTV improvements, youth diversionary projects Best Bar None and Safe Space**

Support: **Funding for a range of integrated initiatives**

Delivery partners: **Derbyshire Police, Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership, Chesterfield FC Community Trust, PubWatch, local pubs and bars, voluntary organisations**

## How are we making a difference?

Working together to design out crime and make Chesterfield an even safer place is the focus of a range of UKSPF-funded initiatives – contributing to a 15 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour.

A strong partnership is making a real impact, underpinned by key principles including support for the vulnerable; prevention, education and engagement; the provision of diversionary activity for young people, and proportionate enforcement action.

Additional uniformed enforcement officers, funded through UKSPF and the Safer Streets initiative, are creating visible reassurance and taking action where needed – creating a safer Chesterfield town centre.

UKSPF funding has contributed to the modernisation of our CCTV systems. We've introduced new digital and mobile camera technology which allows the council to work more efficiently with the police - creating a more responsive and effective tool to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Working with young people to create new opportunities and direction is at the heart of a strong partnership approach with Chesterfield FC Community Trust. A range of projects, including Boots on the Ground, the youth hub and REBOOT, are making a positive difference in the lives of local young people.

The nighttime economy is also receiving a boost through initiatives like Best Bar None. Over 20 venues have now been awarded the accreditation – showing their commitment to reducing alcohol-related crime and disorder to create a safer night.

“Chesterfield is a great place to enjoy an evening out. It's also a very safe place to socialise. However, like towns and cities around the country, alcohol-related crime and disorder can sometimes be an issue.

“We want to ensure Chesterfield is even safer and we're really pleased that a huge number of businesses have been awarded the Best Bar None accreditation.”

Roger Butler, the Chair of Chesterfield Pubwatch (awarded National Pubwatch of the Year 2024)



# Supporting local businesses

We're strengthening the character and vibrancy of our town centre, developing Chesterfield's role as a visitor destination and helping businesses to grow and secure new investment.



**300**  
Businesses have received support to grow



**36**  
Small businesses have received grant funding



**65**  
Entrepreneurs have been provided with support to start a business



**35**  
Businesses have received up-skilling support



More events staged to support our town centre



More businesses attracted to our new flagship offices



More new visitors attracted through the 'Inspired' campaign





“My ambitions are now to make the company a household name, get the brand in some large retailers and also continue to provide a happy and thriving work environment for my staff.”

Annie Johnson, Ellenvale Interiors Ltd

## Chesterfield Accelerator programme – supporting business growth and innovation

Theme: **Supporting local businesses - Chesterfield Accelerator programme**

Project: **Ellenvale Interiors Ltd**

Support: **Training, one-to-one support, mentoring and ‘growth voucher’ to help digitise processes**

Delivery partners: **East Midlands Chamber on behalf of Chesterfield Borough Council**

### How are we making a difference?

Chesterfield Accelerator is a business support project which is helping local businesses at all stages of development to sustain, grow and innovate, and with an additional focus on decarbonisation.

Working with an experienced business adviser, eligible businesses can access a range of support including training, one-to-one advice, mentoring, tailored support for research and development, energy saving and improvement audits and access to a range of financial support.

The programme has helped 190 businesses since its launch in December 2023.

Growing Chesterfield-based, Ellenvale Interiors Ltd, is just one of the businesses which is receiving valuable support through the programme.

The venture was founded in 2021 by Annie Johnson, who first ran the business from her spare room, and then a shed which she had built in her garden. The business sells its products online, having gained an impressive Instagram following.

The soft furnishings and homeware business continues to expand – success which has been bolstered by support from the Accelerator programme.

This has included support for digitalisation to modernise processes and move away from manual stock, fulfilment, delivery and payment systems to a more integrated and automated approach, plus international support for exporting.

New employees and received training in sales, marketing and digital training through the D2N2 Growth Hub

# Business support in Chesterfield - helping established businesses to grow

Theme: **Supporting local businesses – Chesterfield Accelerator programme**

Project: **Black Swan Cyber Security**

Support: **One-to-one business advice, specialist marketing support via a 'growth voucher', and grant funding and training**

Delivery partners: **Chesterfield Borough Council and East Midlands Chamber**

## How are we making a difference?

Bitz 'n' PC'z Ltd (trading as Black Swan Cyber Security) was started in 2006 by Kevin Walker, providing IT support services to schools and other educational organisations in and around Chesterfield. Today the business supports SMEs and not-for-profits with all kinds of cybersecurity solutions.

Changes within the client sector – together with the impact of rising energy costs and transport – were impacting the company's business model. Managing Director Kevin Walker reached out to the Accelerator programme for support to diagnose the issues and find a new route to where the business wanted to be.

New market opportunities, a new subscription-based business model and ways to generate extra revenue while reducing costs underpinned the new growth plan, and a package of support to help make this plan a reality was put in place.

This included a grant of £8,000, which has resulted in the development and launch of a new subscription-based eCommerce platform together with branding, messaging and multi-channel promotion to generate awareness, interest and sales.

**“The support I received from the adviser has been invaluable. His guidance throughout the process was exceptional. He truly understood my business challenges and helped me pivot into new sectors. “If you're seeking growth or want to expand your business, I wholeheartedly recommend the Accelerator project.”**

Kevin Walker, Managing Director

# Local business growth takes centre stage

Theme: **Supporting local businesses**

Project: **Images Costumes**

Support: **One-to-one business advice, specialist marketing support via a 'growth voucher', and grant funding and training**

Delivery partners: **Chesterfield Borough Council and East Midlands Chamber**

## How are we making a difference?

Images Costumes designs and manufactures bespoke dancewear and logo uniforms.

Thanks to advice delivered by the Chesterfield Accelerator programme, the company has adopted new technology and is also taking steps to lower its carbon footprint.

Like most businesses, Managing Director Michelle Webb has faced rising costs which have had a challenging impact, particularly around reinvesting in staff and updating technology. Michelle is working with project business advisers to support growth and sustainability.

For example, it was identified that a new CAD system and software would improve pattern efficiency and development. Michelle was referred to the Made Smarter East Midlands digital adaption programme and supported to secure a £8,300 grant to buy new technology.

This is streamlining processes, allowing the business to be more competitive. With this advantage, the support received is helping to safeguard and create new jobs. The company also hopes to reduce its energy consumption, reduce costs and improve efficiency through a funded energy audit.

**“Small businesses like ours don't have dedicated procurement departments so expert knowledge and experience was invaluable. In addition, they were able to bring other areas of support to our attention, such as the energy audit, which we might otherwise have missed. It was exactly what was needed!”**

Michelle Webb, Managing Director



## Vision Derbyshire Start-Up Project – getting great ideas off the ground

Theme: **Supporting local businesses – Vision Derbyshire Start-Up project**

Project: **Heywood House Nursery, Brimington**

Support: **£10,000 business start-up grant**

### How are we making a difference?

The UKSPF-funded phase of the Vision Derbyshire Start Up project started in January 2024, helping businesses across the borough to turn their ideas into reality – and create new jobs and opportunities for local people.

Investment in the newly-opened Heywood House Nursery in Brimington has helped to create an exciting new outdoor play area – and with growing numbers of children in their care, the new venture is already growing its workforce.

Having bought a grade II listed building on High Street, the company undertook substantial renovation works to create a vibrant and welcoming children's nursery for youngsters aged from three months to five years old.

A business start-up grant of £10,000 allowed the gardens to be extensively renovated and landscaped so that the children can learn and develop in a secure green space – outdoors in nature, whilst having fun with their friends.

Learning in an outdoor environment has been shown to have both developmental and educational benefits and the nursery's striking feature now acts as a unique selling point, helping to set it apart.

Heywood House started operations with four staff, but this has now increased to seven. They have already exceeded expectations in terms of the numbers of children attending on a daily basis.

**“As an organisation, we strive to provide the highest quality care for every child in a safe and friendly environment. This enables all our children to learn whilst having fun and reaching their full potential in preparation for school. We'd like to thank the Vision Derbyshire Business Start-Up team for helping us on our way with this new venture in Brimington.”**

Matt Bell, company director

# People and skills

Funding allocated to this theme started from 1 April 2024 and all projects are underway.



**45**  
people have engaged in the skills system



**48**  
people supported to gain life skills



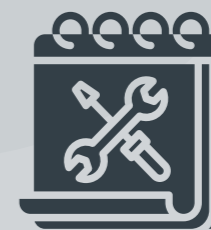
**148**  
people to be supported to access basic skills



Helping businesses equip their existing teams with digital skills



Helping businesses equip their existing teams with green skills



Tailored support to help people overcome barriers to work



# Supporting skills for life

**Creating opportunity and helping people to harness their potential underpins our work in the people and skills theme – providing tailored employment and skills support to break down the barriers to work or offer support to cultivate career aspirations for the future.**

Funding allocated to this theme started from 1 April 2024. All projects are now up and running and, through a strong network of partners and providers, are delivering positive change for local people:



“We are currently delivering programmes in our own centre in Chesterfield on Newbold Road, and other locations including Holme Hall Edge Centre, Staveley Edge Centre, Brimington Community Centre and Loundsley Green Community Centre.

“We have had lovely feedback from learners, many of whom have said they thought they would never attend such a programme, but have found it to be enjoyable and now want to further their education.”

Rachel Sellors, WorkPays – delivering the Work Readiness Programme



**The Future Skills Development Fund** is delivered alongside a range of training partners, covering three main strands; Digital Futures (delivered by DBC Training), Care to Learn (delivered by WEA to upskill underqualified care workers), and Manufacturing Futures (delivered by Chesterfield College, with Chesterfield Manufacturing Forum).

**The Workforce Skills Training project (low carbon)** is delivered with North East Derbyshire District Council and provides green skills training interventions for businesses in Chesterfield seeking to upskill their existing workforce and individuals who are seeking new work. The project is being delivered by Chesterfield College.

**The Workforce Skills Training Project (digital skills)** is delivered in collaboration with North East Derbyshire District Council and provides digital skills training interventions for businesses in Chesterfield seeking to upskill their existing workforce. Althaus Digital have been appointed to deliver this project focussing on higher level digital skills in AI in digital marketing and cyber security.

**The Work Readiness Programme** supports people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally-tailored employability support, including access to basic skills. The project is being delivered by WorkPays.

“The course was very insightful. The part that stood out the most to me was the hands-on approach to learning. It provided a practical perspective that is directly applicable to my current role.

“I believe this will greatly enhance my efficiency and productivity moving forward. Thank you once again for your support and assistance.”

Mihai, from Graphoidal Developments who received support from The Future Skills Development Fund

# The power of partnerships

The case studies in this booklet provide just a small insight into the real-world impact of Chesterfield's UKSPF story so far – demonstrating renewed community connections, and greater opportunity for both businesses and individuals to prosper.

Strong and effective partnerships across our communities are at the heart of this success.

It's difficult to fully capture the full breadth and detail of this network, but UKSPF partners include:

## Chesterfield UKSPF Partnership Board members

Active Derbyshire

Chesterfield Borough Council

Chesterfield College

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Derbyshire County Council

Derbyshire County Council - Public Health

Derbyshire Police

Derbyshire Voluntary Action

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

East Midlands Chamber

MP for Chesterfield

MP for North East Derbyshire

NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB

Parkside School (school representative)

Rural Action Derbyshire

United Cast Bar (business representative)

University of Derby