

Case study 2: job clubs

Foundation for Jobseekers

The Foundation for Jobseekers job clubs assist unemployed executives (average age 50) to return to work by equipping them with modern job search and self-marketing tools and providing the motivation which derives from a peer support environment. There are currently five executive job clubs in the Thames Valley.

Unemployed executives have often not been made redundant before and are usually unfamiliar with current recruitment methods or the public employment system. They need time for re-orientation and re-motivation. The job clubs meet this need through being run by people who have experienced similar situations. The job clubs are volunteer-delivered by people with a sympathetic understanding of redundancy: most have been made redundant themselves in the past.

Each job club meets once a week for programmed job search presentations and one to one help with CVs; career decision-making; networking and self-marketing; interview coaching; and signposting to other agencies. The job club setting also promotes camaraderie among the members and, as well as the practical job seeking support, there is a considerable benefit in terms of the members' mental wellbeing and continued connection with the jobs market.

This volunteer based approach, provided in a group setting but with significant opportunities for one to one support, is a very cost effective way of supporting higher skilled unemployed people, potentially over lengthy periods of time. Because of volunteer delivery, the cost is £230 per known job outcome. One third of members do not report what has happened to them when they leave but, if the same proportion gets into jobs, the actual cost per job outcome would be nearer to £150.

The [Foundation for Jobseekers](#) has developed a toolkit showing how to set up and run a volunteer delivered job club covering objectives; research; quality; recruiting and retaining volunteers; premises; jobseeker induction; services for jobseekers; marketing; constitution; charitable status; finance and fundraising; statistics; and insurance.