CONSTRUCTURE
Building Construction Futures

Constructure
Bittern Court
The Lowes
Cley Road
Kelling
Norfolk
NR25 7EB

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Mr. Alan Milburn
The Social Mobility Foundation
The Brew Eagle House
163 City Road
London
EC1V 1NR

Dear Alan,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the Movement to Work event in Liverpool last month and thereafter to write to you and reflected on points you made during your contribution.

Our previous correspondence referenced your call to move "from neglect to action", your description of this as "a generational cause", and your emphasis on "the power of place" all of these themes did then and continue to resonate with me and a number of the construction organisations that we represent.

Furthermore, we also strongly agreed with your view that sustainable solutions are more likely to emerge from locally driven action and collaboration as is the case with a number of our members, than from interventions designed solely in Whitehall. We should all be focusing on what we posit is an emerging opportunity to translate some of those principles into practical action.

Constructure (www.constructure.org), is an established, active network based enterpr ise that brings together organisations across the construction and built environment sector. With over 250 organisations as members our work is underpinned by its mission:

> *"To champion the ethos, values and culture of training within the construction industry. By working with and supporting industry peers and stakeholders we encourage those not training to do so and those that train to do more by promoting the benefits and value that hiring trained and qualified individuals can bring".*

Our work has resulted in the development of relationships with strategic partners capable of providing proven and successful work-experience and employment pathways, rather than simply creating another programme around young people.

At present there is a particularly interesting opportunity emerging in the West Midlands, where the combination of a 'Devolved Administration' (West Midlands Combined Authority) a fully supportive Mayor; https://www.wmca.org.uk/news/mayor-launches-flagship-plan-for-youth-unemployment-in-the-west-midlands-to-create-20-000-learning-and-work-opportunities/

Coupled with significant construction activity, major infrastructure (HS2) and regeneration programmes, and aligned with some quality pre-employability training provision and supported by Birmingham City Council and a very altruistic leading employer; MPB Structures Ltd https://mpb.co.uk/mpb-aligns-with-national-youth-guarantee-to-champion-youth-employment-week/

Which combined has created the conditions for a genuinely place-based approach.

The proposition is simple:

Identify the local need. Bring together the employers with the demand. Connect them with proven delivery partners. Create meaningful work-experience opportunities. Build the skills and confidence required to progress into employment. Then measure what happens.

Rather than starting with another new programme, the intention is to connect and mobilise what already works, using the reach of employers and strategic partners to create a more coherent pathway into work.

The results to date driven purely by MPB Structures Ltd have seen 100 work placement offers to individuals where core funding has been largely provided by WMCA, be that the DWP/Job Centre Plus environment, and/or delivered through the Skills Centre or Growth Path.

This has resulted in 70 individuals attending, of those, 67 have completed a 2-week work experience programme, with to date 25 being offered permanent PAYE roles by MPB and everyone benefiting for real work experience.

Of those other individuals that have attended the work experience but did not secured a role with MPB some have gone on to secure other roles, with others have access to references from the company which, we believe gives them an invaluable boost to their future employment prospects. This aspect is further enhanced through the collaboration and partnership with the partners.

We fundamentally believe this could have particular relevance to the issues you are exploring through your work. It potentially provides a practical mechanism through which some of the principles you articulated in Liverpool—place, partnership, employer leadership and action—can be translated into demonstrable outcomes.

A potential opportunity aligned to this single core employer exists to create up to another 250 work experience placements which could result in 200 additional job

ready employment outcomes for unemployed, otherwise disadvantaged or socially excluded young people in Birmingham! If this was scaled-up across the city region the construction industry alone could create up to 1000 new jobs in what remains of this current parliament.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you and Richard some this be of interest.

Either way we would separately value your perspective on how collaboration and alignment may best be achieved and scaled-up to offer a national solution to youth unemployment.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Kindest regards,

Martyn Price
Chair, Constructure

Christopher Selby
Head of Marketing & Communications
Constructure