

2010 Storeroom

Tel: 01983 298679

www.storeroom.org.uk

an Island charity dedicated to helping Island people



An introduction to Storeroom2010, the Isle of Wight's leading furniture re-use charity



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

We are a small independent charity, operating without the benefits of statutory funding. Situated on the Isle of Wight in an area which suffers disproportionately high unemployment and child poverty compared to many other areas in the UK, Storeroom2010 enables disadvantaged families to affordably furnish their homes, improve their quality of life and keep their dignity. Our doors are open to everyone.

Winners of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for Volunteer Groups, June 2017.

Furniture donated by Island residents (that may otherwise have been taken to the landfill site) is utilised, enabling availability of affordable furnishing; this also minimises impact on the environment. Storeroom2010 enables Island residents to recycle, thereby helping their community and the environment too. Our figures for 2016 show we have assisted with the re-use of 174,360 of furniture, saving this from our island landfill. It's difficult to imagine that weight, so think of 5,588 average armchairs instead!

Customers in need, benefit from a discounted price (when referred by statutory and voluntary agencies) on our already very reasonable prices. Currently, approximately 9% of our customers are referred by one of 50 support agencies across the IOW.

Storeroom2010 provides volunteer opportunities, community placements and work experience to those seeking a route to employment; ultimately enabling the building of confidence and transferable skills in a framework of support. We have seen people 'change' over the space of just a few days and become more socially interactive and pleased they have found something they can do and enjoy. On average, four or five people a year move onto paid work from a volunteer position at Storeroom.

The Island probation service send clients to us who are required to work unpaid hours. Community Payback people often find themselves motivated by the industrious, but enjoyable community environment at Storeroom2010 and some stay on with Storeroom2010 as volunteers.



1 Mariners Way
Cowes, PO31 8PD

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm



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Email: nicksstoreroom@yahoo.co.uk Web: storeroom.org.uk

Registered Charity 1142010

Registered Company 7488966



Keeping Storeroom2010 open to everyone who would benefit from affordable furniture is our main priority.

In a nutshell the purpose of Storeroom2010 charity and its objectives are threefold: -

- The prevention and relief of poverty by supplying donated furniture and household goods at minimal cost to people in need
- The protection and preservation of the environment by encouraging re-use/recycling of donated furniture and household goods
- The relief of unemployment for the benefit of the public in such ways as may be thought fit, including the provision of training, employment, work experience and volunteering opportunities



Storeroom is different from other charities which collect furniture for re-sale, as they are looking to achieve the best possible profits to help their cause/purpose. Storeroom just wants furniture which can then be offered at affordable prices to those who need it.

This summer we celebrate our 7th birthday. We are very proud of all we have achieved in seven years, including the purchase of our Education premises in 2015 (loan from NatWest, funding from Clothworkers Foundation) and in 2016 the purchase of our main premises (loan from SASC and funding from Power to Change and Garfield Weston Foundation). This has helped to secure Storeroom's future for the benefit of the Isle of Wight community.

Our current venture to help disadvantaged and unemployed people on the Isle of Wight

Our local community suffers from high unemployment and deprivation and the effect of this project will be direct improvement in the provision the unemployed have, to enable them to benefit from free or low cost training for specific employment openings.

We also offer activities and life skills classes.



We have identified skills gaps in many trades and we want to raise enough monies to provide courses that we really believe need to be developed and delivered to the local community. Through funding received



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from many grant awarding charities along with grants from the ESF & SFA (European Social Fund & The Skills Funding Agency) and The IW Foundation, we have employed an Educational Coordinator, Sue Wendes. Sue has 20 years experience in Education; specialising in hard to reach and vulnerable clients; her position is to negotiate training with employers and possible employment opportunities, co-ordinate tutors and meet accreditation requirements, teach some subjects and provide advice and guidance. Sue is fully trained in Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding and Data protection and ensures compliance with good practice and staff involvement. All our tutors are qualified to a minimum of a Level 3 Teaching certificate with many having Level 4 or Degree qualifications in Teaching. Our Verifiers are also fully qualified in Quality Assurance.



Storeroom Education has in place registration as a NOCN centre (number 30000877) and NOCN have awarded us direct claim status. We are able to run various training courses of our choice from their extensive list. We have tutors available who we can call upon, along with assessors and internal verifiers as required. We aim to continue to offer useful and practical training courses to unemployed people, enabling them to find paid work. Please see the training page on our website at www.storeroom.org.uk for further information.

During 2016 Storeroom Education saw 221 learners aged 18+. Most were with us for our accredited NOCN courses in Level 1 Carpentry & Joinery in Construction, Level 2 Carpentry & Joinery in Construction, Health & Safety in a Construction Environment (in preparation for application for CSCS card in order to work on building sites) or our Emergency First Aid At Work (Health & Safety Executive approval) which was very popular with people looking for a career in care, where there are usually many positions available on the Isle of Wight.

NOCN only award a pass or fail for their courses and although our learners manage to complete the courses, all do not pass. When this happens we can apply for an award from NOCN which is especially beneficial for learners who either excel at practical or written work. Additionally, Storeroom has an open door policy, enabling learners who have not been able to complete a course and achieve the NOCN certificate, due to temporary work, ill health or other life complications, to return to their studies in a renewed attempt to complete the course.



We are trying to achieve sustainable education in areas of need, filling skills gaps that are proving difficult for the local education system to overcome. Due partly to these skills gaps, unemployment is high even



though more work opportunities would be available if those currently unemployed had the opportunity to fill positions by obtaining specific training. We are developing educational programmes to ensure the employer is obtaining trained and committed staff, whilst those seeking employment with genuine interest in these areas, are being given the opportunity to succeed.

We have a partnership with Shaw Trust/CDG and are working alongside JobCentre Plus as referrers, also liaising with local and national building companies who have identified that in this geographical area they struggled to find local skills and had resorted to bringing labour from other areas. This is a situation that needed to be urgently addressed. The Isle of Wight is suffering from generational worklessness, which greatly affects our small island community. We are working towards alleviating this serious problem.

The outline for this project is to provide a sustainable provision for skills gap training. It is our intention that in the future the training will become self-financing and we recently began offering some 'paid for' professional courses, which will help to cover the costs associated with the dedicated training premises. In the next year, we hope there will be monies spare to enable more free training places.



The Skills Gap training we provide at Storeroom2010 is open to all clients aged 18+ and provides additional support to those with higher needs. Most courses are free to the unemployed and have no restrictions to any individual based on gender, ill health, disabilities or employment status, nor do we exclude those with mental health issues or those in recovery from substance abuse. We also support ex-offenders with the facilities to start again, learn new skills and be able to provide disclosure to future employers.

We have conducted surveys at the local job centre and on our website and listened to the responses we have received. We have also conducted taster sessions and had evaluations and feedback from these, which has enabled us to provide some differences in provision. Many local establishments and agencies have been involved in supporting the courses we provide by allowing the unemployed to have time to study and they have also provided us with the information concerning the requirements that many of their clients have.



We actively encourage clients from all areas of our community to participate and work on confidence and self-esteem issues that may otherwise prevent engagement. Our tutors, educational management and all educational staff are required to have DBS checks before starting employment. Our courses are heavily focused on skills for employment and we expect to have a direct influence on the local community's economic wellbeing with growth and sustainment.

We hear back from our learners who are now in paid work; it is great that they keep in touch, are proud of their achievement and the changes for the better that they can now make to their and their families' lives. We want to enable more people to take charge of their lives and to move forward; we want to enable them to make a difference.



At the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce Business Awards for Excellence 2016, held in December, Storeroom2010 won the Business in the Community Award.



Do let me know if you would like any further information about our work or if you would like to visit our education project. We can be available to give talks about Storeroom Furniture and/or Storeroom Education at your premises.

Nick Miller
Manager / CEO

June 2017



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