

# Building Better Opportunities - Better Off Finance

 /BetterOffFinance

 @BetterOffBBO



# The Women's Organisation

## The Women's Organisation

- accountable body for the Better Off Finance Project
- charity and social enterprise with 22 years experience working with a diverse range of EU Structural Funds and other publicly funded initiatives
- specialising in programme management
- development of collaboratives



[illegible]

**NATIONAL  
LOTTERY FUNDED**



# What difference can improving financial capabilities make to peoples lives?

- Improved employment sustainability
- Increase income
- Reduce debts
- Help people manage their finances
- Improve health – stress/anxiety/physical health
- Improve living conditions
- Improve relationships



# Common practical financial issues that are barriers to employment

- Perceptions about income changes
- Moving from 2 week payments to monthly
- Gap between last benefits payment and first payday
- Travel costs
- Childcare costs
- Disabilities – what work can I carry out?
- Understanding tax
- Understanding payslips
- Notify people so they don't get into debt

# Solutions

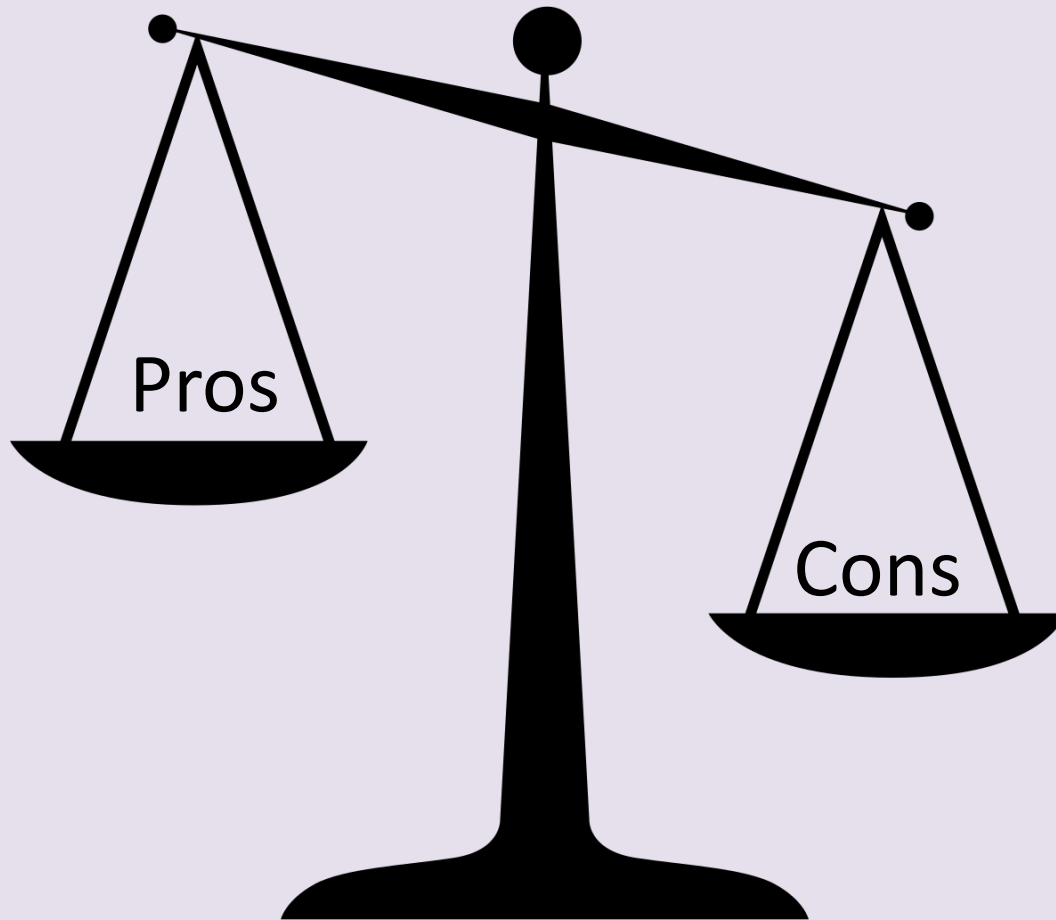
- Benefits calculations
- Understanding in-work benefits entitlement
- Entitled to any other benefits?
- Budgeting skills
- Travel costs – budgeting, Bike for Work Package
- [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)
- [www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work)
- Ask their work coach of any help they can get when starting work
- Tax information
- Understanding payslips



# The Better Off Finance Partners









# Learning

- Alignment of ESF guidelines and regulations and the working practices of the Big Lottery
- Work with partners and keyworkers to find solutions to the frustrations and delays around evidence requirements to ensure participant engagement and enthusiasm remains high
- Need and opportunity to have an experienced managing partner in ESIF
- Importance of trusted brand and local networks

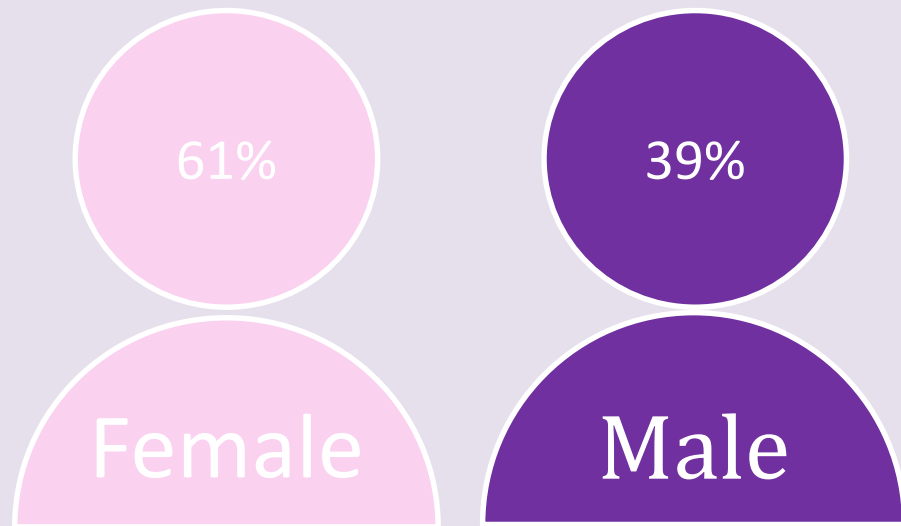
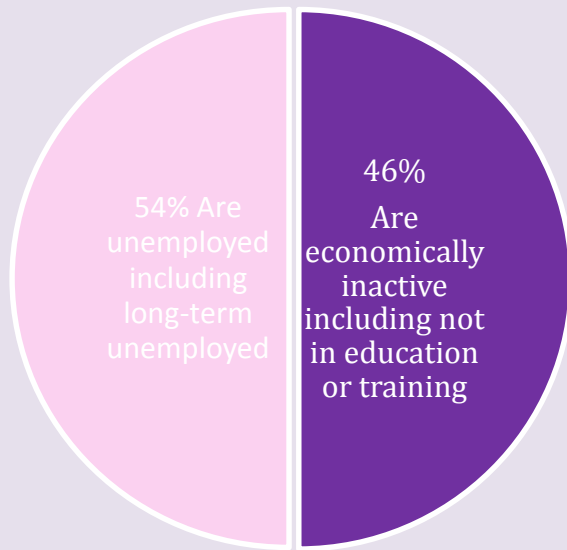


# What has gone well:

- BBO has allowed scope for us to develop an innovative model of both quality and scale of delivery
- Enables an intensive wrap around support for beneficiaries across the LCR removing any postcode lottery to accessing provision
- Advanced payments allow flexibility in delivery and assist organisational capacity
- Removed barriers to smaller and more specialised partners to access ESF funding and by accessing in this manor via BBO we have assisted in increasing our partners internal capacity enabling 9 to access further ESF programmes.
- Resulting in positive levels of engagement from traditionally underrepresented groups
- Offers accredited training for “community money mentors” allowing participants who have never previously gained a qualification to do so, improving self esteem, confidence and future prospects as well as helping their wider communities by disseminating financial information to friends, family and wider.

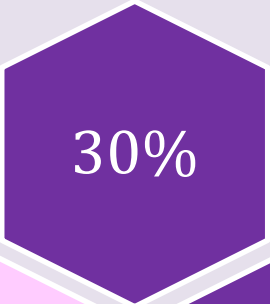
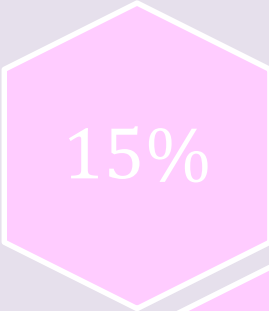


# Where are we now

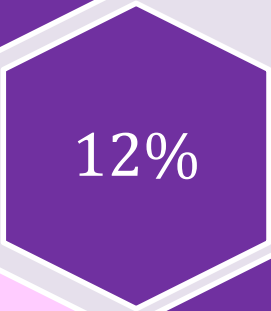
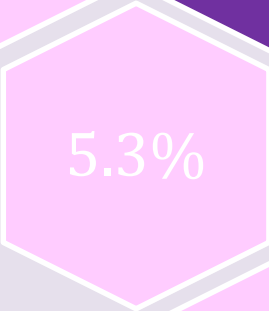


# Profile

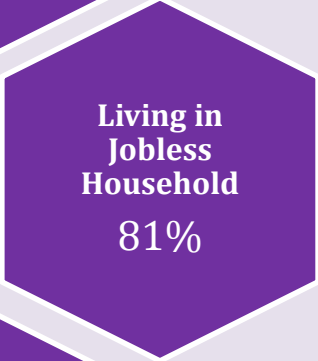
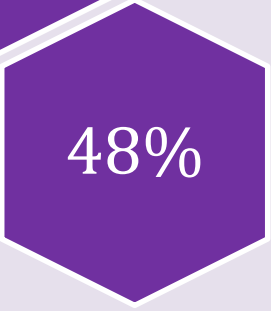
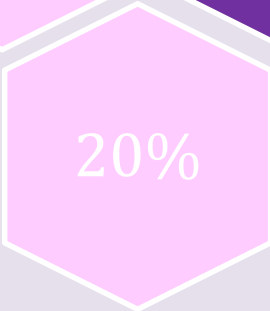
Over 50s



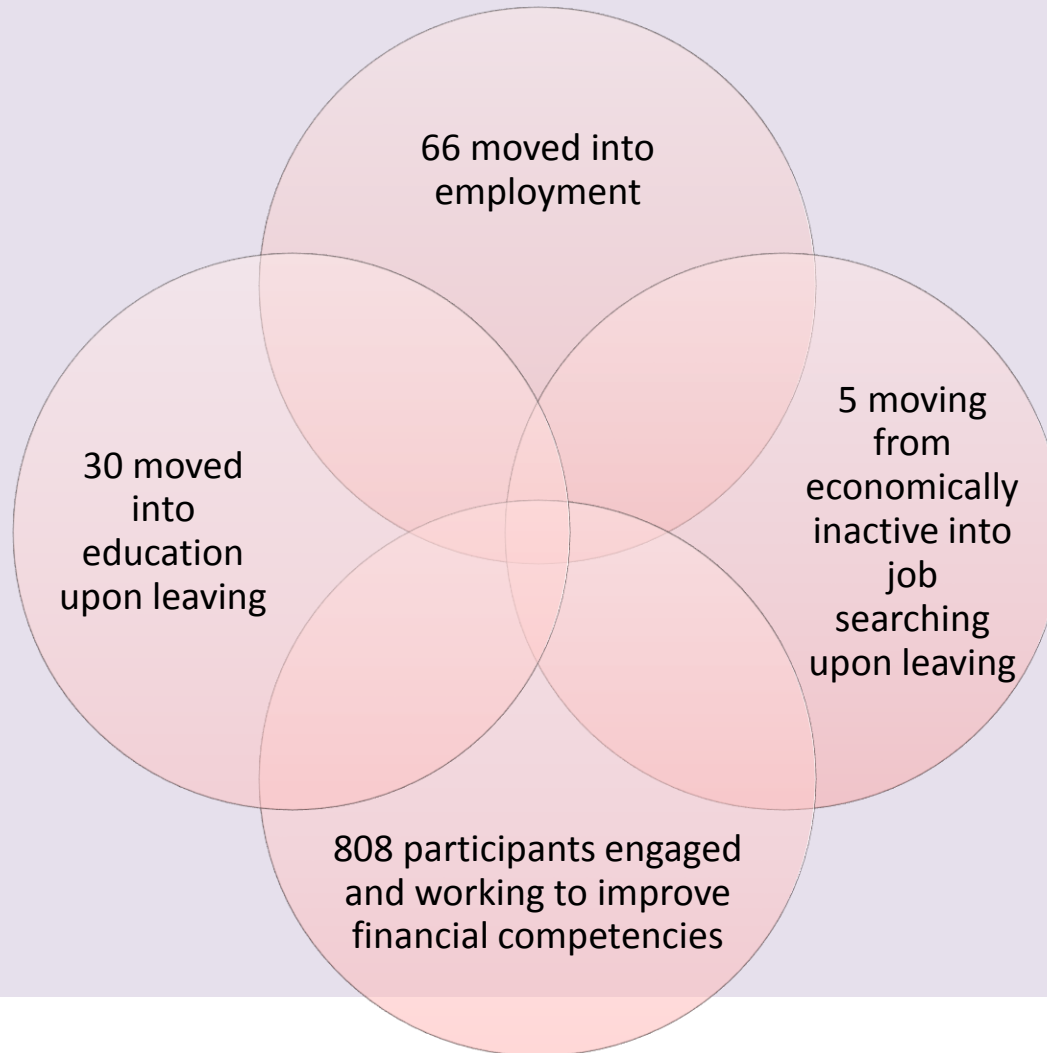
BAME Communities



People with Disabilities



# Achievements



# Participants' Journey Travelled

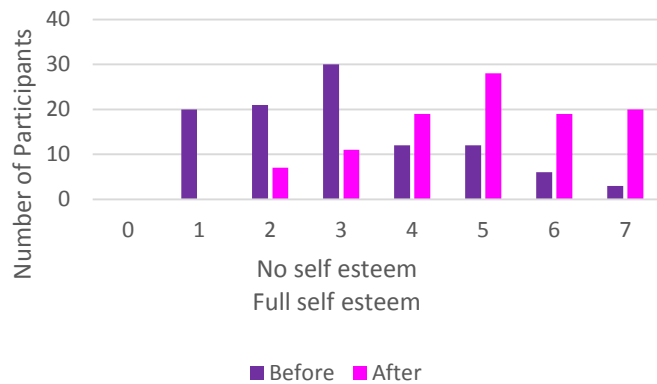
## Increasing Skills & Knowledge



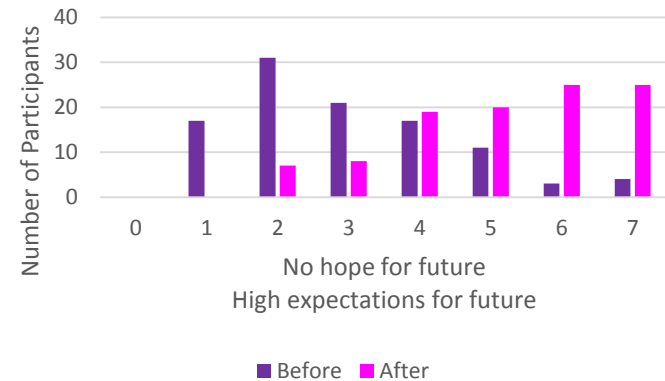
## Increasing Self Confidence



## Increasing Self Esteem



## Increasing Future Prospects



**#BeBetterOff ..**



**"It's opened  
opportunities that I  
didn't know where  
there."**

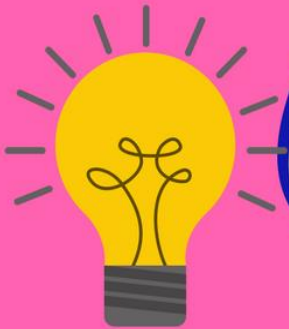
**#BeBetterOff ..**



**"I feel better and I'm  
dealing with things  
more, I'm more positive  
about looking for work"**



## #BeBetterOff ..



"Not having yet started employment at 26, it has been soul crushing but these sessions have helped me to re-evaluate my self worth"

## #BeBetterOff ..



"Before this I couldn't picture a future, now I think about things more differently and I am always looking forward to these sessions"

## #BeBetterOff ..



"I did not believe in myself in the beginning, after learning to manage my money I feel like I have more control"

## #BeBetterOff ..



"I was worried and anxious living on the edge, since coming here I have felt better and feel that is all improving"