

Family Action and Barclays Launch 3-Year Partnership

Family Action and Barclays announce a 3-year partnership to support families and individuals across the country.

Through the delivery of Barclays LifeSkills workshops and the provision of Learning Support Grants, the partnership is helping people to meet basic household needs and build their confidence, whilst developing the practical employability, digital and financial skills needed to access jobs now and in the future.

Barclays LifeSkills workshops are being delivered through Family Action's services and their partner organisations across England. The workshops provide resources and support, working towards strengthening families, by raising parents and carers' confidence and helping them advance their employment prospects, and or, careers.

The Learning Support Grants, worth up to £1000 for each recipient, will provide financial support to parents and carers UK-wide who want to begin or continue in education or training, and to increase their employability prospects. Eligible recipients are parents or carers from participating colleges, and/or those who take part in Barclays LifeSkills through Family Action services.

David Holmes CBE, CEO at Family Action, said: "We are thrilled to be working with Barclays over the next 3 years and we are very grateful for their continued support. The Barclays LifeSkills programme and the Learning Support Grants will work towards reducing the widening inequality gap and will make a profound difference to the futures of individuals and families we work with, by helping them to build the skills and confidence they need to move into education, training, or employment."

Parent and political refugee, Zara* attended LifeSkills workshops in Southend and is the first recipient of the Learning Support Grant. Zara said: "I attended LifeSkills to improve my English and complete several courses to help improve my confidence. I was very shy at the time, and I hesitated to speak English, as I was worried about saying the wrong words. I thought people would laugh, but the LifeSkills staff understood what I was saying and what I wanted to say.

"When I asked them for support with something they always tried to find different ways to help me. For example, they helped me get funding to register for GCSE English and accounting courses and to pay for my exams and travel. When I can speak better English and finish my accounting course, I hope I can maybe work again."

Kirstie Mackey OBE, Head of Barclays LifeSkills, said: "This year marks our 10th anniversary of Barclays LifeSkills, and the launch of our new strategy to address social inequalities. As we look to the future, we are delighted to continue our partnership with Family Action to support families to thrive. Together, we will help families overcome their challenges and build their confidence and employability skills for a brighter future."

Family Action will deliver Barclays LifeSkills sessions and resources to families and individuals experiencing challenging life circumstances.

The Learning Support Grants will be distributed to families supported by Family Action via the charity's services or college partners and will provide financial support to parents and carers who want to begin or continue in education or training.



To find out more about Family Action and Barclays' partnership visit LifeSkills with Family Action: [Family Action LifeSkills](#) or [Family Action Learning Support Grants](#)

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Notes to Editors

- * Name has been changed to protect identity

About Family Action

Family Action is a national charity committed to building stronger families and brighter lives. Since the charity was founded in 1869, we have continued to help children and families overcome the challenges they face through a wide range of practical, emotional and financial support. Today we work with more than 60,000 families in over 150 community-based services, as well as supporting thousands more through our national helpline, FamilyLine, which offers free and immediate support to adult family members.

We help families and individuals to manage their mental health and wellbeing, working with families to reduce the impact of social isolation, poverty, addiction and other significant sources of stress and pressure. We also support families affected by adoption, special guardianship, separation, special educational needs, disability, domestic violence and sexual abuse. In addition, we provide thousands of welfare and educational grants every year to people in financial crisis.

For further information, please visit our website at www.family-action.org.uk

Registered charity number: 264 713

About Barclays

Barclays is a British universal bank. We are diversified by business, by different types of customer and client, and geography. Our businesses include consumer banking and payments operations around the world, as well as a top-tier, full service, global corporate and investment bank, all of which are supported by our service company which provides technology, operations, and functional services across the Group.

For further information about Barclays, please visit our website www.barclays.com

About Barclays LifeSkills

Since 2013, the Barclays LifeSkills programme has helped millions of people to build the core transferable skills, knowledge, confidence, and connections they need to get into or progress in work, whether that's a young person preparing for their first job to someone wanting to make changes in their career or even start their own business. The programme provides free lesson plans, modules,



and interactive tools to support educators with young people or adult learners, plus access to online tools and resources for independent learners and families.

For further information, please visit www.barclayslifeskills.com