

Background and Problem

A local charity organisation, involved in working with the long term unemployed in light manufacturing, with three retail stores, was struggling to control finished product stock and work in progress as the volumes and variety they handled grew significantly as they became more successful.

Action taken

Although they had developed paper based procedures to handle the variety of products and made good use of simple IT solutions to support the tasks, the system was becoming overloaded and cumbersome to use.

It was clear that a full stock management software solution was required to bring the problem under control and to allow the management team to gain a better understanding of where and how stock was being used. A review of appropriate solutions was undertaken combined with an assessment of existing hardware facilities and requirements.

The selected software provider was approached, with a view to a joint marketing campaign to raise their profile and the charity. Local press would be invited to photo opportunities and to write editorial articles about the issues confronting the charity and how with subsidised support from the software company and the Business Advisors, they had made substantial improvements.

Charity organisations have little funding available to invest in sophisticated software, let alone the advice and training fees necessary for a smooth implementation. Many charities struggle to raise additional funds for investment. Grant aid options were however identified and proposals prepared and coordinated to support a bid for funding to include software, hardware and training and consultancy fees.

The result

After a mere six weeks, grant approval had been received in full and the company was in a position to plan out the implementation programme. With support from the software provider and the Business Advisor, a full implementation and training programme was implemented.

**If you want to find out more about any of the areas covered in this case study
and how we can support your business – contact us today.**