

Believe in Young People goes from launch to national prominence, with Sage 50 Accounts Plus

Sage enables charity Believe in Young People to invest in the UK's workforce of the future

Believe in Young People (BiYP) is a charity committed to giving young people a bright future by connecting them with high quality work experience placements, apprenticeships and jobs.

Just two years after its launch in 2013, BiYP has already guided thousands of young people in the UK into stimulating personal development opportunities, and given them the tools and techniques to successfully transition from school into the world of work.

Based in Milton Keynes, BiYP's small team travel the country, bringing teachers, young people and employers together at events, school visits and community open days.

By making these local connections, and delivering employability skills training in schools, BiYP is helping to inspire students about their career prospects – and show businesses that there are ideal young recruits right on their doorstep, with the skills they need to succeed.

Its employer partners include Whitbread, Premier Inn, B&Q and many other household names.

Customer

Ana Kelly, Finance Manager,
Believe in Young People

Industry

Education, Careers Information
Advice and Guidance, Recruitment

Location

Milton Keynes

System

Sage 50 Accounts Plus



Challenge

- Assist rapid business growth by a small team
- Keep close, cost effective control of accounts administration
- Meet specific accounts reporting requirements for not-for-profits
- Enable organisational focus to stay on its customers, not on administration
- Maximise re-investment of income into services for customers and partners

Solution

Believe in Young People is one of the UK's leading providers of work experience placements, apprenticeships and jobs. Sage 50 Accounts Plus provides the features, flexibility and scalability to enable the organisation to successfully and cost effectively manage rapid growth.

Results

Finance Manager Ana Kelly has all of the tools she needs to easily absorb and manage the growth in data within the accounting system, and to keep tight control over processes, costs and relationships with customers and suppliers. She also has the flexibility to present bespoke accounts information that meet the specific reporting requirements of the charitable sector.

Managing rapid growth while maintaining control over processes and costs

Ana Kelly is originally from Brazil and came to the UK more than 20 years ago, building a successful career in a number of accountancy practices, before joining BiYP in late 2014 as its Finance Manager.

The charity had selected Sage 50 Accounts Plus to manage its accounts soon after launching and Ana knew she would be in familiar territory when she began her new job. "I've used lots of different packages during my career and Sage is one of the best around, so I knew I could hit the ground running," said Ana.

"BiYP has grown rapidly in a short period of time and, of course as a charity, it is essential that we keep administration costs under close control so that our focus is always on the young people that we are supporting."

Ana makes extensive use of Sage 50 Accounts Plus, including invoicing its employer and school clients and managing payments to suppliers, complying with the latest HMRC VAT requirements and completing the bank reconciliation, month end and year end processes.

"I really like the simplicity and clarity of the Sage software", said Ana. "It's very flexible and, when you know how to use it, you can mould it to your own personal requirements."

"And that's the key point with Sage in my opinion. My advice to anyone considering using Sage is – go ahead, because it's great, especially for small businesses, but do spend time up front really familiarising yourself with it to get the maximum value from it."

"A very important feature for us is the ability to present our accounts information in a variety of ways. For example, as a charity we have different reporting requirements and Sage enables me to make the necessary changes very easily to create the reports that we need."

Expert support on hand

Sage 50 Accounts Plus is also enabling BiYP to avoid many of the pains often associated with small organisations that grow quickly.

"The numbers of schools and employers we are working with has expanded rapidly, but with Sage it's very easy to use the tools to create new records and quickly integrate them into our systems," said Ana. "We haven't needed to spend on additional systems or administrative staff, instead we have been able to invest in our portal technology that is at the heart of what we do for our young people, schools and employers."

Complimentary as she is about Sage, Ana Kelly balances her positive points with constructive suggestions about refinements that could provide additional benefits for users.

"Still, when I do occasionally need to seek assistance with something, the Sage support team is always there for me and they always have the answer."

About Sage

When it comes to business software and services, you need to choose a name that you can trust. For over 30 years we've been helping small businesses improve the way they work, not only with our market-leading software but with expertise and personalised advice.

Our Accounts and Payroll software will help save you time managing your finances, people and customers. More than 800,000 businesses in the UK trust us to help them run their business. So whether you're planning, starting out or up and running you can rely on us to always be there to offer easy to use software and award-winning support.

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