

Interview with Darcy Corben (July 2016)

Interim Charity Finance Manager



Making the Move from Permanent to Contract Employment

With more than 25 years' experience working in finance on the south coast, Darcy Corben, has taken on a new challenge by entering the world of contracting and starting a new role as Interim Charity Finance Manager at the UK military charity - [Help for Heroes](#). Darcy talks to The Chilworth Partnership about his recruitment experience on the latest step of his career journey, and offers valuable advice for others thinking of making the change.

Congratulations. How are you enjoying your new job at Help for Heroes?

I am enjoying it very much indeed! I haven't had the opportunity to work for a charity before and I've learned a lot about the sector. Help for Heroes does fantastic work supporting wounded, injured and sick serving personnel, veterans and their families and it's great to be a part of that. There is a great, dynamic finance team here who are fully committed to supporting the organisation.

What were you looking for in your next role?

Senior permanent roles are pretty rare and I didn't want to take a long break from work, so when I was made redundant I decided to start contracting. I wanted to be open about my choice of roles - you have to be as a contractor - but having worked in the defence industry for some years I was well aware of Help for Heroes, so I immediately bought in to the organisation's aims.

How did you find the experience of working with a specialist recruitment company?

I was very impressed by the speed at which things moved. I had been speaking to The Chilworth Partnership for a couple of months before my redundancy was finalised, and contacted them as soon as I cleared my desk. They arranged an interview the very next day and I started at Help for Heroes the following Monday.

I was very lucky to be in the right place at the right time - with the right support of course!

How did you find entering the world of contracting for the first time?

The Chilworth Partnership gave me some great advice about the contract market, including setting up a service company to work through. They've always been available to discuss any issues and the administration is fast and efficient.

Do you have any advice for other people thinking about changing roles?

I think it's always important to understand why you are moving. There is always danger that the grass looks greener elsewhere, and you should be clear what you expect to get from a move. But I also think it's usually the case that, if you are keen to stretch yourself, changing roles can bring new challenges and further your career.

How has your life changed since making the move, personally and professionally?

I have taken on a number of different projects at Help for Heroes and the variety has been very interesting. I found the change to contracting pretty easy to adapt to, and I've been helped by the friendliness of my new colleagues.

Redundancy is always a challenge and it's been great to keep working and learning. I'm not sure what the next step might be but I feel well prepared.

Finally, would you recommend working with The Chilworth Partnership?

Definitely. I have worked in finance on the South Coast for over 25 years now and have a lot of recruitment experience both as a hirer and a job-seeker. Good specialists perform an invaluable service in matching up candidates and opportunities.

If I am interested in a role, I can trust Chilworth Partnership to give me valuable insights, for example on the culture of the organisation, which are very hard to obtain any other way. Trust and personal relationships are just as important as they ever were.

Darcy was initially introduced to Help for Heroes in November 2015 on a 6 week contract. However after successive contract extensions he finished in July 2016. He has now secured a Finance Director role for a Dorset-based defence business.