

ESF

in the East Midlands



NEW THEMES ON ESF WORKS



The ESF-Works website: www.esf-works.com is launching a season of new key themes.

This began in the autumn, with 'Older workers: responses for an aging workforce at a time of recession'. Other subjects to be covered in the coming months

will include 'ESF and climate change: the role of employment and training'. The aim is to help highlight the lessons and practices that ESF offers to those who are building policy.

ESF-Works is about sharing the details of best practice, showcasing effective intervention and stimulating debate.

To have a say on what themes matter to providers and what issues you would most like to see tackled, then e-mail: feedback@esf-works.com

ESF - THE NEXT STEPS TOWARDS 2011 - 2013 ACTIVITY

Key focuses and priorities for the next round of ESF projects are currently taking shape.

A consultation led by GOEM sought feedback on the draft East Midlands ESF Strategic Framework 2011-13. The Framework outlined the priorities and focuses which will drive the East Midlands ESF 2011-13 programme.

The programme will continue to be delivered by the four co financing organisations (CFO) LSC East Midlands*, DWP - Jobcentre Plus, Local Authorities Consortium (LAC) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). Responses to the consultation are

now being considered. The final Framework will be approved by the ESF Regional Monitoring Committee by the end of this year.

The CFOs will then submit their respective plans in response to the Framework which will in turn help kick-start their ESF activities from 4th January 2011 to 31st December 2013.

*All current LSC ESF responsibilities will be transferred to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) from the 1st April 2010, which will include contracting for and on behalf of the Young Peoples' Learning Agency (YPLA).

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More Caring Jobs from ESF

Figures from Care Training's ESF funded pre-employment training programme has resulted in another 22 people into jobs in just three months.

Jobs Fairs across Nottingham and Derby have proved to be a valuable way for job seekers to speak directly to the recruiting employer, Partnership in Care, as well as finding out about training in care.

The events have attracted hundreds of people, many of whom have benefitted from Care Training advice and guidance. Attendees who are selected by the recruiting employer at the Job Fairs are then invited onto a tailored pre-employment training programme to prepare them for work.

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Personal Best

Golden opportunity to get back into work

A new ESF and LSC East Midlands funded training programme, **Personal Best**, is now out of the starting blocks to help unemployed people boost their skills and get the chance to apply to become one of the UK's 70,000 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games volunteers.

Leicester College, South Nottingham College and YMCA Derbyshire are the local providers offering to train up to 302 people in the region who are out of work or socially disadvantaged to help improve their job chances.

Claire Willis, curriculum area manager for hospitality and leisure at Leicester College said:

"Personal Best will motivate and inspire the participants, allowing them to develop new skills and employment opportunities, raise self esteem and self confidence, benefitting the region socially and economically."

Steve Finch, learning and development manager of YMCA Derbyshire said: "The YMCA already runs a couple of employability programmes and this will enhance the provision for our learners."

Joanna Mileham, Personal Best assessor at South Nottingham College said: "We hope it can provide a stepping stone for those volunteers who wish to progress."

Participants will be offered an opportunity to train for a Level 1 qualification in event volunteering and, after graduating from the scheme and following a



successful application, will have a guaranteed interview with the London Organising Committee for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), to act as a Games-time volunteer.

Those completing the course will

also have the opportunity to volunteer at local sporting, cultural and community events.

Personal Best is backed by a partnership including the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands, SkillsActive, Jobcentre Plus and the East Midlands Development Agency.

For more information on Personal Best visit:

www.skillsactive.com/arounduk/eastmidlands/sport/personal-best-in-the-east-midlands



L-R: **Alan Potts** JobCentre Plus, **Anne Rippon** Sport England, **Joanna Mileham** South Notts College, **Lorna Goldring**, LSC, **Jeff Spencer** Skills Active, **Claire Willis** Leicester College & **Steve Finch** YMCA Derbyshire

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County news - Northamptonshire

ESF HELPS PAUL GET HEAD HUNTED

When father of two, Paul Smith (55) from Lois Weedon, Northamptonshire was made redundant from Farnell UK back in April 2009, he was left shell-shocked for quite some time until he received help from ESF's 'Response to Redundancy' (R2R) training programme.



When Paul went along to Towcester job club, he met **Sue Concannon** from Apricot Management who explained more about some of the services they offered.

After face-to-face meetings, interview coaching and preparation and a review of his CV, Paul has now started a new job as sales manager for Milton Keynes-based Inov8 Science Ltd.

Paul said: "I applied for my current job after being head-hunted by an agency. Sue's direct one-to-one coaching on interview techniques was absolutely crucial two days before my second and final interview for my new job.

I'm really happy in my new role as a sales manager for a small engineering company who manufacture an air-disinfectant product targeting infections like MRSA, Swine Flu and C. Difficile. I have been hired to expand the product into the education sector which means I can take advantage of the contacts in universities and schools that I built up in several of my previous roles. I would certainly recommend

Apricot Management and R2R. Sue helped me address a lot of my underlying issues and helped me restore my confidence."

And for anyone in a similar position, Paul gives this advice: "Sign-on immediately, sort out any mortgage insurance and seek advice from a training and career specialist on day one."

Sue Concannon from Apricot Management said: "Like Paul, many people who are made redundant feel angry, disappointed and are anxious about the future. People's confidence can be knocked and for those who have been in the same job for years, the prospect of re-training or having to learn new skills can be daunting."

apricot

MANAGEMENT

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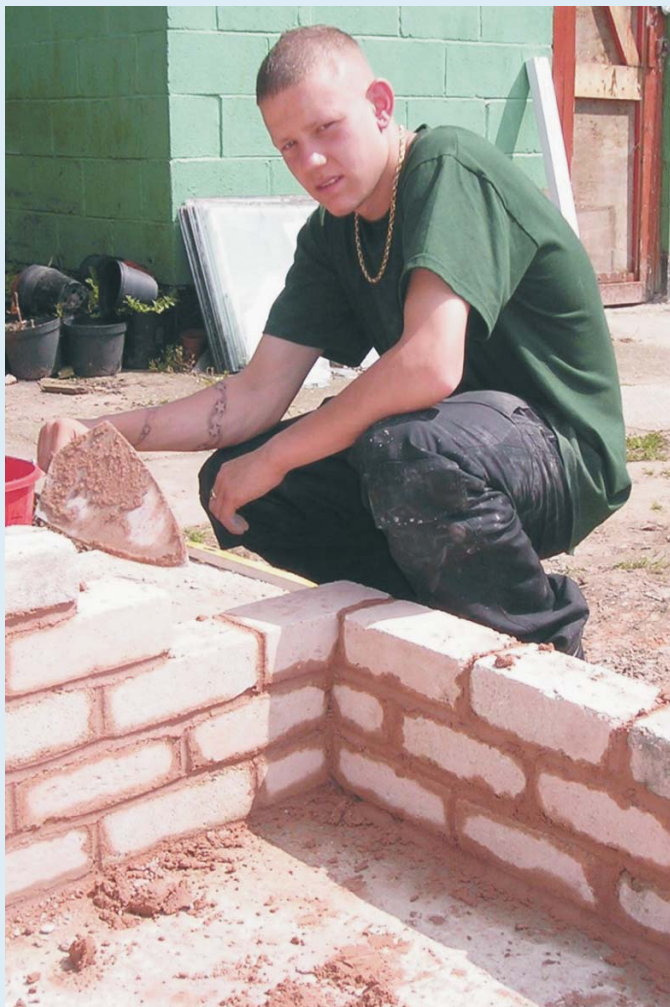
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County news - Nottinghamshire

ESF PROVES A NEET INVESTMENT

Young people in West Nottinghamshire are reaping the benefit of a £1.1 million investment in NEET (not in employment, education or training) Partnerships. The ESF NEET scheme engages young people aged 16-19 by teaching work related and vocational skills while building confidence, communication skills and a passion for learning.



The project is led by West Nottinghamshire College with seven partners; Castle College, the Connexions Service, Enable, Groundwork Trust, Lincoln College, NCC Youth Support Services and North Nottinghamshire College. In its second year, the County NEET partnership is enjoying great success in making a difference to young people's lives, as proved by Ashfield College and Groundwork Cresswell.

As a result of NEET funding, Ashfield College has been able to recruit additional support workers to provide a more flexible offer to its learners. The facility has been developed specifically to support vulnerable and 'at risk' young people with a focus on practical learning and vocational skills.

Learners like **Jon**, now on a Music Level 3 programme, embody the enthusiasm that Ashfield College is able to put back into learning: "I went to Ashfield because other options were not available to me. Whilst there, I got a lot of very good support that boosted my confidence. I was made to feel like an adult."

Groundwork Cresswell in Mansfield and Ashfield has been working to re-engage young people who have had prior difficulties in school learning, and who are often as a result, reluctant to re-enter formal education.

With this in mind, the NEET project has recently developed a vocational, hands-on Construction Training programme in Kirkby-in-Ashfield. The practical course kicked off earlier this year with ten young people who, within a few busy weeks - were able to produce complex brickwork test pieces, and who continue to thrive under the fast paced, practical programme.

Tom (pictured) who is one of the youngsters involved in the scheme typifies the progress being made by the group as a whole, and said, "I'd not done any bricklaying before, and I've learnt loads."



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County news - Nottinghamshire

ESF comes up smelling of roses

ESF project Building Blocks, a mental health social enterprise based in Mansfield, has helped one local man recover his self belief and confidence and helped him back into employment at a local garden centre.

After many years working for a large local company, being made redundant unexpectedly came as a real blow to 'Steve' (which is not his real name). Struggling to deal with the impact of unemployment, Steve's self confidence was severely dented, leading to mental health and depression issues which damaged his chances of finding work, and had a negative impact on his family life.

Steve was referred to Building Blocks - one of the many Skills for Jobs projects run by Connexions Derbyshire on behalf of LSC East Midlands - where his advisor **Brendon Grimley** was able to help.

Brendon explains; "The first thing

that we needed to do was to help Steve rebuild his confidence and well being. It's not a quick or easy thing to do, but it was absolutely essential to get Steve back to a position where he felt able to seek permanent employment."

After four months of personal support involving regular contact both face-to-face and on the telephone, Steve's progress was such that, in consultation with Building Blocks, he was placed in a role at a local garden centre. During the two-month period, Steve continued to benefit from sustained support from Building Blocks, and his confidence began to flourish.

Six months on, Steve is still in the same job and enjoying his role

immensely. His responsibilities have grown and Steve's now taking the lead in supporting both trainees at the centre, and hard to reach children from local schools.

Steve said; "Losing my job after such a long time really knocked me for six. The outstanding support, advice and personal interest that Building Blocks offered was vital in helping me pick myself up and get out there again. Since starting work at the garden centre everything in my life is looking up again."



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NEW LOOK FOR NATIONAL E-ZINE

A national e-zine is being revamped by the ESF publicity division and they want the new-look publication to be as relevant and engaging as possible for people nationally, regionally and locally. The aim is to reach a wider audience as possible, including all providers.

Ideas for the revised look include:

- 'Day in the life of' articles about people who are involved in the ESF programme - local level project managers/advisers and CFOs.

(This would be similar to the Care Training's Angela Carroll 'My working week' which appeared in the last edition of ESF provider news)

- A regional news/achievements round up page towards the end of each issue. These could cover a variety of topics, events, case studies, milestones reached, etc. Already the ESF publicity team have a bank of 38 case studies - 10 of which are East Midlands-based.

Therefore please continue to send to jo.sheppard@coi.gsi.gov.uk any leads, ideas, news stories, success stories, etc. for possible inclusion in this national publication as well as promoting success regionally. To subscribe to the e-zine itself e-mail: anna.turner@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

County news - Leicestershire

ESF HELPS CONSTRUCT CAREERS

Ex-young offender Martin has turned his back on the past and found a construction course laying foundations for a better future.

Martin, who did not want his real name used, attended the ESF and LSC East Midlands funded Endeavour Training project in Leicester and with their help accessed the NVQ level one at the National Construction Academy (NCA).

With this qualification he could potentially progress to a level two and programme-led Apprenticeships in construction.

Martin was lacking in confidence after being out of training, education or employment since

2008 when he ceased to attend college.

Staff at Endeavour Training's New Horizons project worked with Martin in applying for courses, providing support during meetings with tutors, and later during the NCA interview where he excelled.

Martin said; "I found the New Horizons' work very helpful. I was feeling a bit stuck in my situation

and disappointed about leaving college last year.

I needed their help to get moving and give me the confidence to get back into education and I am looking forward to starting the construction course and getting some painting and decorating work in the future."

Martin's youth offending team case worker said he was pleased with his progress and recognised the importance of education and training opportunities in the reduction of youth offending.

endeavour
challenge, inspire, achieve

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County news - Lincolnshire

Stacey bags her first job in four years

Mum of two **Stacie Keates** (29) has bagged her first job in four years thanks to the ESF and LSC East Midlands funded Working Communities Project.

After helping to organise a street party on Westwick Gardens in Lincoln's Boultham area where she lives, Stacie joined a job club and has recently found work at Sainsbury's.

Stacie, believes that she wouldn't be working now if she hadn't joined the job club - part of the Working Communities Project run by Boston College.

Stacie said: "Before I joined the job club, I was at home looking after my children. Although I was looking for work, without a CV, it proved to be difficult.



Stacie pictured above, centre

The job club has been great for me. One of the best things is that it is held in the day so I could go along after the kids had gone to school. It was also encouraging to know that other people in the area

were in the same situation as myself.

I'd recommend the job club to anyone out of work. Even if you're slightly nervous, the benefits are well worth the effort. My friends and family have been really supportive and are pleased with the outcome, I just wished I'd joined earlier!"

boston:college

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ESF news

JobMAETS scheme makes for job success

Staff working for the ESF and DWP funded JobMAETS (Job Multi-Agency Engagement Teams) schemes at TNG in Lincolnshire and Intraining in Leicester are helping residents find permanent employment and have had hundreds of people attend sessions since the service began.

Three people who have benefitted from the JobMAETS scheme are **Neil Nicholson** (40) from Gainsborough and **Chris Brewin** (35) from Leicester and **Steven Schofield** from Sleaford. Neil said; "For seventeen and a half years, I worked at a local factory so when I lost my job in the recession, I didn't really know what I was going to do.

I joined the JobMAETS scheme with TNG which I found extremely useful. I got access to a placement which then led to my employment as a customer service advisor for West Lindsey Council which lasts until March next year.

The council must have been impressed with my CV and interview otherwise they wouldn't have taken me on and it's all thanks to TNG."

Chris said; "I went to JobMAETS with Intraining looking for a change in career having previously worked as a driving instructor for five years. I wanted to seek guidance and advice about renewing my CV because I'd been applying for various positions with no joy.

His advisor, **Priti** alerted Chris to

a position at Renault and approached them to see if they would interview him for a work trial, which they did. They were so impressed by his knowledge on cars and his personal skills and experiences that after a second interview they offered Chris a job.

"I'm really happy with my new job and especially my company car which is a brand new Renault."

Steven Schofield had been out of work for six months until he secured a full time position as physical training coordinator at Mere's Leisure Centre in Grantham.

Steven said; "TNG provided me with useful advice and guidance. I received information about the Skills Account which gave me access to extra funding to assist in the costs of higher education. I also got £90 which helped me go on a public indemnity course."

After Steven's CV had been posted on the internet, future employers in the fitness industry were able to access Steven's details, who quickly got an interview with Mere's Leisure Centre.

Steven attended the interview and impressed the manager so much

that he was offered the main post as key physical training coordinator.

In addition to help with CVs, the JobMAETS scheme offers a range of other in-house services including interview coaching and confidence-building classes, as well as support for personal issues. Through the use of 'signposting' with other local agencies, staff also offer help with training, accommodation for work and financial assistance.

TNG 

intraining
Developing People for Sustained Employment

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We want your news!

If you know of a learner whose life has been turned around thanks to ESF and their story deserves to be in local press and even appear on TV, please contact **Jo Sheppard at COI News and PR** on 0115 852 4333.

The deadline for copy for January/February edition is final week in January, 2010. Don't forget we also want to hear about any project milestones or interesting visits and events.

