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## Press Information

### **New Year Celebrations for Alternatives Activity Centre**

Celebrations at Alternatives Activity Centre in Derby are in full swing now that the centre, which provides and promotes opportunities for adults with learning disabilities, has achieved the Investor in People (IIP) Standard a full 10 months ahead of schedule.

“It’s our way of showing our commitment to doing the best for our staff and the adults who use our service” says Belinda Hadfield, Centre Manager. “Providing the best possible service to the people who use us and our facilities means that we need to embrace best practice in the way we operate. This has only been possible thanks to funding from the Learning and Skills Council East Midlands.

Alternatives Activity Centre operates a three day per week activity-based personal development centre and a two stage employment scheme, with approximately 30 people attending each service day at the activity centre. A full range of paid jobs for adults with learning disabilities is available within the centre to give the individuals a chance to learn about work and holding a job.

## **2... Christmas Comes Early at Alternatives Activity Centre (continued)**

Melanie Alsop, Economic Development Advisor, LSC East Midlands who worked with Alternatives Activity Centre, pointed out: "I have been very impressed with the commitment shown by everyone at Alternatives as they've worked together to achieve the IIP Standard. The original target date to obtain recognition was July 2007 however, through continuous improvement and hard work from Belinda and her team they have gained the IIP Standard 10 months early. This clearly demonstrates Alternatives commitment to quality and service."

Belinda Hadfield continues: "With the LSC we identified the Investor in People Standard as the route to internal improvements that would benefit both our staff and the people who use the Centre. Without doubt IIP, alongside other business improvements, has increased our profile as a service provider. IIP and our future quality goals will help to ensure that we are best placed to secure funding."

Alternatives Activity Centre provides support for adults with learning disabilities and equips them with a range of life skills. These include communication and social skills, self esteem and confidence, basic skills and employability, all with the ultimate goal of equipping individuals for a more independent future.

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