

PRESS RELEASE

HEALTHY FUTURE AHEAD FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CLASS OF 2007

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Two Northamptonshire training providers who teamed up to give 19 employees a healthy career boost are celebrating after 100% of them passed an NVQ Level 2, with help from Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council to help businesses succeed.

Tresham Institute and Impact Training Services have ensured all the 19 employees have passed an NVQ Level 2 in Health and Social Care.

The training, worth over £28,000, has enabled the Northamptonshire workers, who range from a care worker for Mencap to a person who works with young disabled children, to develop professional skills as well as gaining motivation and confidence in the work they do.

Allison Hope, Director of Faculty at Tresham Institute said:

"This is very good start to the delivery of our Train to Gain contract across Northamptonshire. It provides us with the funding to enable people to update their skills and get, what is usually, one of their first ever qualifications.

"It gives the employees the chance to update their skills but also, and perhaps more importantly, helps them improve their self-esteem, morale and personal development."

Jan Lewis, a Director of Impact Training Services, said:

"The students are very busy people. They do demanding jobs which involve anti-social hours and they also have lives and families! So it's a real credit to them that they can complete an NVQ course, and in such short time—nine months is excellent. Our assessors have also been wonderful—working with them on a one to one basis, visiting them on nights shifts and early mornings to ensure they can assess them at the right times.

"We are delighted with these results and so proud of every one of them - putting in 100% effort has resulted in this excellent 100% pass rate. Not only have the employees benefited from the funding to support the cost of the training to improve their skills, but they have also achieved a nationally recognised qualification to prove their workplace competence."

One of the carers from Sunrise Care in Little Addington who has benefited from the training, Krista Narainen, said:

"I'm so pleased to have done this training. It's made me feel a lot more confident in my role and it's great to have achieved something. I'm thrilled to have passed. At times I found it difficult but the assessors were really supportive and helped us get through. It's also really useful to gain a qualification which proves our competence and recognises the work that we do."

Karen Woodward, Skills Director for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands said:

"Achieving 100% success rate is a really great achievement for the employees and a real cause for celebration. It can be difficult to fit a full time job in alongside a busy domestic life, never mind fitting in learning too, but the NVQs really are flexible enough to do this.

"All companies across the East Midlands are eligible for Train to Gain services. Developing skills across the county is vital if we are to increase productivity, support advances in enterprise and innovation and improve our economic well being."

"Train to Gain offers a great opportunity for local businesses to embrace the chance to tackle skills shortages in the county and receive high quality training."

For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 057 1817, text TRAIN to 64446, register at www.iwanttotrain.com or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

The government commissioned report into skills published by Lord Leitch in December 2006 called for a radical overhaul in adult training and warned that the UK's skill base was lower than many international competitors.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The Tresham Institute have bases in Kettering, Corby, Wellingborough and Oakham. For further information on the Tresham Institute, please telephone Jo Garner at Tresham Institute Business Solutions on 01536 419575 or visit www.tresham.ac.uk
2. Impact Training Services are based on Pitsford Rd in Moulton. For further information telephone Jan Lewis on 01604 491200.
3. Train to Gain is a new service run by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Train to Gain aims to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the right job through information, advice, an organisational needs analysis, by making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.
3. The brokerage service for Train to Gain in the East Midlands is provided under contract to the LSC by East Midlands Business Ltd (EMB); a joint venture partnership formed by Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Chambers of Commerce.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY
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