

NOTTINGHAM REGENERATION TEAM TRAIN TO GAIN IN THE WORKPLACE

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A regeneration company in Nottingham is celebrating the success of a recent round of training courses, which has helped its workforce make strides in their careers.

With help from Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council to help businesses succeed, Radford and Hyson Green Neighbourhood Development Company (NDC) was able to source the best IT training courses available for almost half of its office-based workforce, which has revolutionised the way they work.

Donna Birkinshaw, NDC Human Resources Officer, said: "The training and development of our staff is so important to us for staff morale, job satisfaction, career development and for the success of our company. However, ever-changing priorities unfortunately mean that it can sometimes go to the bottom of the to do list, as it can be very time intensive due to the level of research involved in finding the most suitable courses.

"Train to Gain was a real help, making life so much easier for me. All it took was one call and Catherine was off finding me a host of courses to choose from. She was approachable, helpful and even managed to get a discount on the cost, which is always a bonus!"

As a result of such positive feedback from staff who took part in the courses, which included advanced Microsoft Excel and Word training, Donna is setting up additional

training days for the rest of the team. She is also using Train to Gain again to source more courses in procurement, time management, supervisory skills, problem solving and decision making.

NDC Marketing and Communications Manager, Farrukh Tariq, attended one of the training courses. He said: "The course I attended enabled me to learn new things and put them into practice at work, which is not always the case with other courses. It was pitched at the right level and was paced so that I never lost interest."

Catherine Tomlinson, Train to Gain Skills Broker, said: "It was a delight to help the NDC with their training needs. In a small business like this, there is often not enough time to dedicate to staff training, which is where we can help. I look forward to working with them again.

"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."

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

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photographs are available. Contact Gaby Hateley at GNN or download from www.gnn.gov.uk
2. The Neighbourhood Development Company manages the government's New Deal for Communities Programme for Nottingham – working with residents, public, private and voluntary sectors to improve the neighbourhoods of Radford and Hyson Green. A team of 30 staff are based at 147-149 Alfreton Road in Radford, Nottingham, NG 7 3JL
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: an organisational

needs analysis, by making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.

4. 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.
5. 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.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY
GOVERNMENT NEWS NETWORK EAST MIDLANDS. FOR FURTHER
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