

Rat's the way to do it!

Date of issue November 7th 2006
Publication number LSC0607-039
Embargo until For immediate release

Animal lover Kay Moore is well on her way to a dream career providing creature comforts thanks to a Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded learning programme.

Studying hard, as well as caring for her three pet rats, has helped Kay, 35, from Middlesbrough, to overcome a period of ill health and regain confidence.

Keen to start a national diploma in animal management, Kay was thwarted by a lack of qualifications. Unsure what to do, she visited the nextstep advisor at her local Learning Shop and after an assessment, was identified as an ideal candidate for Skills for Life learning opportunities. Kay quickly achieved four NVQs, including maths and English, which has opened up a new world to her that she didn't think possible. Some 7,546 people in the Tees Valley achieved Skills for Life qualifications that counted towards national targets in 2004/5 – an increase of 72% on the previous year.

“I had lost all hope of achieving my lifelong ambition to work with animals because I just didn't have the qualifications required,” Kay said: “Thanks to Skills for Life, I have now started a national diploma in animal management at Middlesbrough College. I never thought this would be possible but now my dreams are turning into a reality! I can hardly believe it.”

Kay's daughter Niamh and pet rats Tom, Dick and Harry have also played a key role in Kay's progress which, upon completion of her diploma, could lead to a supervisory or management position in a wide range of sectors such as animal sanctuaries and surgeries.

Chris Roberts, regional director, LSC North East said: "Skills for Life has helped thousands of adults to develop in a professional and personal capacity. It's great to hear about people who have really benefited from the support we provide. Kay's example shows that there is always a way forward in terms of learning and that with a little help from the LSC you can achieve goals you never thought possible."

Anyone struggling to access the right training course due to insufficient qualifications or anyone uncertain about which career path to take should speak to a Nextsep advisor for impartial careers information, advice and guidance. The number to call is 01642 358 099

Skills for Life is the national strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy and was launched by the Government in 2001. It aims to improve significantly the literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT), and language (ESOL) skills of adults in England.

For more information about Skills for Life, contact freephone 0800 100 900.

-ends-

Editor's Note:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching

the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

Media contact:

Ann Barnes and Laura Tiplady, Regional Press Officers, t: 0191 492 6355, e:
pressofficenortheast@lsc.gov.uk

Out of hours media contact Julie Calvert, Regional Marketing and Communications Manager at the LSC North East: T: 07710075118