



EVALUATION REPORT



PROJECT TITLE: I. T. Technician Training

PROJECT REF NO: ESF/0203/078

LEAD ORGANISATION: Preston College

Overview of the Project Activity and Partners

To enable unemployed people to gain the vocational skills/core skills to support their entry into IT technician level employment. This will be achieved through working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and a wide range of community and voluntary organisations.

Achievements of the Project

35 beneficiaries engaged

Areas of Innovation

Stand in Jobcentre Plus, taster events (e.g. Bamber Bridge Learning Centre)

Identification of Areas of Good Practice and Areas for Improvement

Extensive publicity and marketing campaign undertaken. Despite this we were unable to successfully engage the target groups (35 out of an original target of 100). One of the main barriers to engaging beneficiaries that was identified by all partners concerned was access to PC maintenance kit – beneficiaries who were not in employment tended not to have the financial resources to allow them to purchase expensive items of hardware on which to learn, practice and develop outside of class. In future, consideration should be given to supplying PC hardware kit for the student to work upon during the course of their study and retain upon successful completion. This was requested mid way through the lifetime of the project but was turned down.

Lessons Learnt

Despite extensive advertising and promotion of this project, many of the people wanting to take advantage of the courses offered were already in employment and looking to improve their prospects / career change or more mature students (i.e. post retirement age). This should be taken into account when profiling future projects. Also, because we offered this at a number of community locations, it was extremely expensive to provide and maintain enough PC equipment upon which the students could work. Additional funds should be requested to take this into account for any future projects.

Dissemination of Good Practice including Details of Dissemination Materials Produced

Staff briefing / training sessions, various meetings throughout and outwith college.

Details of Publicity Undertaken (attach copies of any advertising/publicity materials produced)

All marketing and advertising literature contained the ESF logo and the European Social Fund was referred to in all correspondence.

An extremely wide range of advertising and marketing activity has been undertaken to include, mailshots, flyers, posters, local media advertising, taster sessions, jobcentre stand, open events etc.

Case study

TBA

Views of customers and/or partners

Mainly positive evaluation feedback. Please refer to section on areas for improvement.

Comparison of how the project dealt with Information Communication Technologies, Equal Opportunities and Sustainability

Due to the nature of the project it was mainly ICT based provision that was delivered. Differing levels of ability courses were offered (i.e. from entry level to level 2).

Some level 2 courses encouraged students to also enrol onto a Learndirect course in order to support their learning and understanding of hardware and peripherals.

To encourage take up, courses were offered at a wide range of venues, and at varying times throughout the daytime and evening to include the YMCA, Buckingham House in Preston city centre, Preston North End, Gujarat Hindu Temple, Plungington Community centre, Lancaster and Bamber Bridge Learning Centres and Garstang High School.

Childcare provision was offered at suitable venues.

Taster sessions were also used to try and engage beneficiaries.

Sustainability of the Project's Activities (Exit Strategy/Mainstreaming)

The college will continue to support and deliver this type of course and progression routes will be offered

Details of tools used to evaluate the impact of the project

Database tracking, evaluation forms on completion, student feedback, exam results and progression statistics.

Currently 12 completed evaluation forms returned – 11 of which demonstrated positive outcomes ranging from further study to career change and possibility of starting up their own business.

Additional Information

SIGNATURE:

DATE