



EVALUATION REPORT



PROJECT TITLE: Pathways for Progression for the Third Sector

PROJECT REF NO: ESF/0203/231

LEAD ORGANISATION: St Martins College

Overview of the Project Activity and Partners

St Martin's College recruited 12 students to undertake the 1st 2 modules of the Certificate course. All 12 students finished the course and passed both modules. Funding for the remaining 4 modules has now been picked up by the College.

Achievements of the Project

- 12 students recruited
- 12 students passed 2 modules
- 12 evaluations prepared for receiving organisations (employers and placement providers)
- 12 project proposals/business plans prepared for receiving organisations
- 2 students found paid employment in the field within the period of the course
- 1 new social enterprise constituted and currently trading

Areas of Innovation

This is a new course in a new subject area. The assessments were applied projects relevant to the workplace and have provided a wealth of information for employers.

Identification of Areas of Good Practice and Areas for Improvement

Student evaluation indicated a very successful project, as have our outcomes. Work is now underway to develop a postgraduate course in this subject.

It was extremely difficult to recruit for a course that was not funded through to completion!

Lessons Learnt

The original targets and timescale were re-negotiated with LSC and lessons have been taken on board regarding the reasons for this. Changing funding priorities resulted in us not receiving continuation funding from the LSC, and could have resulted in students being stopped from completing a course they had signed up for. The college is now allowing the students to complete the course, as agreed with them, without adequate external funding to support them.

Dissemination of Good Practice including Details of Dissemination Materials Produced

Plans are underway for the course leader to participate in a social enterprise conference later in 2004, disseminating good practice from the course.

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

Please find attached materials (hard copy submission only)

Case study

- A student who is a member of staff at a local theatre, who had undertaken a community development role in the past, submitted an evaluation of community involvement, which was presented to the management committee. This led to the development of a business plan, by the student, which was accepted and is now in progress.
- 2 students prepared a project proposal for a new social enterprise, providing community arts services. They are now in secure premises and have begun trading, with continued support from the course.
- A student disabled through a past mental illness used the course to regain skills and confidence in community capacity building work. He is now employed as a community development worker.

Views of customers and/or partners

A partnership steering group was established and has provided support for the project throughout. The success of the partnership may be judged by the fact that staff from 3 of the partnership organisations have registered for the next course which will begin in the summer term.

There has been an excellent response to the work produced by students from their workplaces.

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

Course-work includes a module on ICT in not-for-profit Organisations. Taught sessions on equal opportunities and diversity training were delivered as part of the course. Sustainability is an integral part of the whole curriculum of Social Entrepreneurship training.

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

The course has now been mainstreamed into the college provision.

Details of tools used to evaluate the impact of the project

- Record of attendance.
- Evaluation form for student use
- Fortnightly discussion of student contribution and progress with workplace line-managers
- Monthly meetings with partnership steering group.
- St Martins College have a rigorous and externally validated evaluation system for all degree level courses.

Additional Information

SIGNATURE:

DATE: 30/1/04

