



This project is funded by:



Leading learning and skills

Project Case Study

Connexions Salford, Job Club to Construction

Project Overview

Job Club to Construction is a structured 13 week programme for NEET (not in education employment or training) 16-18 year olds which aims to equip beneficiaries with qualifications and hands-on construction work experience with an objective of supporting participants into employment or learning opportunities.

Salford City Council received funding for the programme from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) as part of its 2007-10 European Social Fund (ESF) Co-finance Plan, and delivered the project through Connexions Salford.

The scheme is run in conjunction with other initiatives as part of the wider ESF funded programme, Post 16 Preventing and Reducing NEET, which works with 16-19 year olds living within the city of Salford.

How it Works

Job Club to Construction comprises both classroom based learning and hands-on construction training. Students study for an AQA accreditation in Job Application and Interview Skills at Connexions Salford and gain on-the-job construction training at Tom McManus Associates (TMA). Beneficiaries are able to work towards a CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) card which can be used as proof of occupational competence and is widely used across the industry as an essential criterion when taking on employees.

During their time at Connexions Salford, participants learn interview techniques, are given CV and job application guidance, and receive tips on how to work well in a

team. During the eight week construction training, students learn a variety of different construction skills such as, brickwork, painting and decorating and plastering.

Whilst on the project, the young people are provided with guidance and support from a Connexions worker and through a Life Coach, who aims to assist and encourage participants throughout the duration of the programme and beyond.

Impact and Success

The programme has been very successful with good retention and achievement rates. So far, two cohorts of young people have progressed through the initiative, engaging 23 beneficiaries, including eight with learning difficulties or disabilities and six who have had involvement with the Youth Offending Service. The current cohort of 11 participants includes four young people involved with the Youth Offending Service and one care leaver.

Through the popularity of the course and enthusiasm from beneficiaries, young people are now self-referring to the programme and demand for places on the course has soared.

Participants on the programme benefit from increased motivation, self esteem and a more positive outlook on life and opportunities open to them. One sixteen year old participant turned his life around following the programme and is now completing a carpentry and joinery course at Salford College.

The participant was experiencing a lack of motivation and confidence and his attendance at school was suffering as a result. After a visit from his Life Coach who suggested he try the Job Club to Construction programme following the completion of his compulsory education, he decided that it was the route for him.

His attendance, attitude and commitment to the programme were exemplary and following the course he secured a two month work placement with TMA Associates which has lead him to pursue a career in carpentry and joinery. He has since progressed onto a fulltime construction course at college and intends to start his second year at college in September 2009.

The programme works as a stepping stone onto further learning for participants, whether they continue in construction based work or identify other opportunities, thanks to the new skills and motivation gained on the scheme.

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