



This project is funded by:



Project Case Study

Passport to Health and Social Care Employment, Salford City College

Project Overview

Working in the Greater Manchester area, 'Passport to Health and Social Care Employment' is funded by the Learning and Skills Council as part of its 2007-10 European Social Fund (ESF) Co-finance Plan. The project has been set up to enable people who are long-term unemployed to gain new skills and secure employment in the Health and Social Care sector.

The contract is held by Stockport College with the project based at Salford City College operating in partnership with Salford Royal Hospital, Jobcentre Plus and care homes throughout Salford.

How it Works

The five week course is based at Salford City College which concludes in a guaranteed interview with Salford Royal Hospital and local care homes. In addition individuals are offered the opportunity to do work placements to gain an insight into the sort of roles they would like to work in.

During the course, the participants attend college four days a week - combining vocational learning and personal skills development. On the current cycle, thirteen of the eighteen individuals are completing literacy and numeracy courses, in addition to learning the practical elements relevant to the Health and Social Care sector such as food preparation, behaviour patterns and health and safety.

Salford City College has also established a 'Skills For Me' programme which is available as part of the 'Passport to Health and Social Care Employment' project, and

helps participants with personal development. The sessions work to increase confidence and assertiveness, resulting in enhanced employability now and in the future.

The programme is supported by the NHS Academy and Stockport College provide mentoring when the individuals are placed in either employment or volunteer placement roles. Individuals undertake confidence building and learning skills sessions, plus have on-going individual advice and guidance and careers advice sessions.

The project also brings in guest speakers from both the Salford Royal Trust and the local care homes to give individuals an insight into the role they will be expected to carry out on successful appointment or during placements.

Impact and Success

The programme has been very successful with good retention and achievement. Now in its fourth cycle 49 participants have completed the course with 20 individuals being offered employment within Salford Royal Hospital and local care homes.

As the only Greater Manchester college with a hospital partnership, the course at Salford City College has continued to grow and expand with the help and support of Salford Royal Hospital. As a result many individuals who initially were unsuccessful in securing employment are now on the right path to securing a position at the hospital.

One of the project's success stories is Lynne who has overcome many barriers with the course gaining new skills and building her confidence. Lynne not only scored the highest of her group at the interview but successfully secured employment as a Clinical Support Worker. This was a massive achievement for someone who had previously suffered with depression and agoraphobia and had spent 20 years receiving incapacity benefit. Subsequently Lynne has won the 'Getting Back to Work' award at the North West Local Employment Partnership awards, for her success and development since joining the project.

3 June 2009