



This project is funded by:



Project Case Study

Cumbria Colleges Ltd, Skills for Jobs – Sector Routeways

Project Overview

The Skills for Jobs – Sector Routeways programme works with individuals across Cumbria to develop their skills within key employability areas for the county. The sectors identified are; construction, health and social care, leisure, logistics, manufacturing / engineering, retail and tourism / hospitality.

Unemployed individuals that are over 18 years old can access the programme and when the most appropriate sector is identified they commence employability training and short accredited courses – giving them a head start when it comes to securing sustainable employment.

Cumbria Colleges Ltd. received £545,750 for the programme from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) as part of its 2007-10 European Social Fund (ESF) Co-finance Plan, with the consortium of colleges working together to deliver the project.

How it Works

The project exists to provide a route from unemployment to training, with the journey ultimately leading to skilled work. The delivery team recruits participants from local communities through displaying posters in doctors surgeries and local shopping centres, and attending jobs fairs as well as working with Jobcentre Plus. Participants then work with the team to identify potential employment areas, based on the above sectors and are signposted on to the relevant course.

With the labour market particularly competitive in the current economic climate, the project is continuously liaising with local employers to ensure that the skills and

knowledge participants are gaining are relevant to the employment opportunities available. The demand-led nature of the course i.e. responding to feedback from employers, means that on completion of the project, the individuals are work-ready.

Impact and Success

With one key objective – to get unemployed people back into work – the project really is delivering. With a target of 85 starts on the course, the project is actually working with 146 individuals, assessing their needs and moving them on to learn new skills. 60 of these individuals have now moved into employment or are working in the voluntary sector.

Karen Ingram delivers the programme in the health and social care sector and is confident in the programme and the difference it can make to people's lives. Karen comments; "There is no other way to say it... this does work. I have supported participants from the very beginning, when they have had no confidence, low self esteem and limited experience of work, and have then seen them move on into employment and flourish, even securing supervisory positions."

The health and social care strand of the project is proving popular, with participants that have completed recommending it to their friends. Karen continues; "We are constantly receiving requests from people that want to come on the course. I think the fact that it is delivered in a wide range of sectors really gives it more appeal. We're not telling them they have to do a certain job, we're working with them to identify the skills and interests they have already and looking at how they can be developed to be relevant to a job role."

23 October 2009