

Merseyside Fire Fighters First to Achieve Full Apprenticeships

Two young fire fighters from Merseyside are the first to achieve full Apprenticeships in the North West

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In the month that is traditionally the busiest for fire and rescue services it's reassuring to see two young fire fighters successfully achieving full Apprenticeships. Cameron Dunne and Richard Young, both aged 27 from the Wirral have completed their NVQ Level 3 in Emergency Fire Service Operations in the Community.

Both Richard and Cameron went to school on the Wirral and decided to join the Fire Service four years ago. After a year, they completed their induction period and commenced their Apprenticeship training in November 2003. They both served at a number of Merseyside fire stations gaining valuable experience in their job roles and towards their qualification; including incidents involving chemicals, road traffic collisions and of course fires.

Since completing their Apprenticeships, Cameron has moved into a specialist role in the Special Rescue Team based in Croxteth, which is dedicated to dealing with rescues that are more difficult and complex, and Richard is stationed at Upton Fire Station on the Wirral.

The Apprenticeship is funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Michael McDermott, Director of Area for LSC Greater Merseyside hopes that other young fire fighters will follow in Cameron and Richard's footsteps:

"I'm delighted that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Asset Training and Consultancy are leading the way in the North West with Apprenticeships in emergency fire

services. I congratulate Cameron and Richard on their excellent achievement and look forward to seeing more young people following their lead.”

During their Apprenticeships, Cameron and Richard were supported by Asset Training and Consultancy Ltd, who worked closely with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and the Learning and Skills Council Greater Merseyside. Peter McEvoy, Managing Director for Asset is delighted with their success:

“Achieving the Emergency Fire Service Operations in the Community NVQ provides young fire fighters with vital skills linked to communications and working with the community. The Fire and Rescue Services team not only have to be brave and highly skilled individuals they also need to be able to deal with the general public often in difficult and harrowing circumstances.

The team at Asset are very proud of Cameron and Richard, and we look forward to assisting new recruits to achieve their Apprenticeships.”

Ends

Photos: Cameron Dunne and Richard Young achievers of the first full Emergency Fire Services Apprenticeship in the North West

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our

vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

Top Level Messages

- We plan and invest in high quality education and training for young people and adults that will build a skilled and competitive workforce.
- We help employers to get the training and skills they need for their business.
- We are transforming the further education sector to meet the needs of employers and the local community.
- We are committed to improving learning opportunities for everyone.