

## Cheshire's Young People invited to Open the Door to their Future

*A Cheshire-based organisation is helping young people to  
find their own way in the world.*

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Young people in Cheshire are being given the opportunity to improve their chances of securing educational qualifications and employment thanks to funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) as part of its 2007-2010 European Social Fund (ESF) Co-finance Plan.

For the young people in West Cheshire and Ellesmere Port a scheme run by 'Building Young People's Potential' (BYPP), which is part of the Blacon Community Trust, helps them lay the foundations for a secure future. Established in 1993, BYPP aims to assist unemployed young people aged between 16 and 25 to increase their skills and look for work. Whatever challenges face the young people who attend the BYPP project, they soon realise that they are valued members of society who can help themselves to a successful life.

18-year-old Adam Poole is just one of the many young people to have benefited from the programme. Adam says: "I'm very glad I came to BYPP as I'm really enjoying the work and have made lots of friends. I was very shy when I first came here but the staff are really nice and they've really helped me; I don't feel shy any more.

"I started college in September, doing a joinery course, and I definitely wouldn't be doing that if I hadn't come to BYPP; it's given me lots of confidence and shown me how many opportunities there are for me. After the two-year college course, I hope to get a job with a local construction company."

Head teacher of BYPP, Louise Davey, explains: “Our main priority is to give young people the opportunities they need, at the time when they most need them, as tomorrow might be too late. We were very proud to see two of our young mums attend university, something they admit would not have happened had they not been involved with BYPP. We can offer the young people who come to BYPP a sense of belonging to something positive which is often something they’ve never encountered before.”

Andrew Fawcett, Economic Development Director for the LSC in the North West, says: “ESF is making a real difference to people’s lives and across the North West thousands of people have improved their skills and opportunities thanks to ESF-funded projects.

“Cheshire’s young people deserve to be given the chance to make the most of opportunities available to them, so they can reach their potential. BYPP enables young people to see the opportunities open to them and gives them the confidence to pursue their goals and ambitions.”

## **Ends**

### The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) 2007-2010 ESF Co-finance Plan

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone.

The LSC in the North West has secured £185m of ESF funding for 2007-2010 which is matched with an equivalent amount of Government funding. This overall package of £30m is being used to:

- Up-skill unemployed people so that they can secure sustainable employment.
- Support young people who are not currently in employment, education or training.
- Support employers to up-skill their workforce.

In the North West over 130 colleges and training providers are contacted to deliver projects to achieve those objectives.

### European Social Fund (ESF)

The European Social Fund is investing in jobs and skills – especially for people at a disadvantage in the labour market.

Over the past seven years from 2000 to 2006, the ESF has helped over four million people in England. In 2007, the EU launched a new round of ESF programmes for the next seven years to 2013.

The new programme will invest £4.6 billion in 2007-2013 of which £2.3 billion will come from the ESF and £2.3 billion will be national funding.

#### **For further information:**

LSC website: [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

ESF website: [www.esf.gov.uk](http://www.esf.gov.uk)

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