

Vision Security Group

An award-winning security firm that looks after hundreds of companies ranging from B&Q to The Bank of America is putting its own trust in the training professionals of New College Swindon.

Steve Douglas of the Vision Security Group (VSG) says he sees the college's Security Academy as a flagship for the industry and it's making a significant difference to companies like VSG.

"They're a one-stop shop for all of our training needs," he says. "They have a very flexible consultative approach, find funding, and tell us what qualifications are on the horizon. They have very similar backgrounds to staff at a commercial training company but have the firepower that Government training providers offer."

Steve, who is Security Manager (Knowledge Transfer) at VSG (Bank of America), credits New College with helping the company on its way to two major awards.

"We've been able to develop our workforce in areas our original budget would not have stretched to," he says. "We've allocated budget to certain bespoke courses and the college have complemented those with nationally accredited courses that didn't cost us anything."

VSG was voted the Security Guarding Company of the Year 2008 by the British Security Industry Association and won its other award for the Security Training Initiative of the Year.

"We won the two awards last year because we were focussing on the whole person. The other entrants didn't look at the associated problems like lifelong learning issues with numeracy and literacy. It's the first time that one of the awards has gone to a manned-guarding company which was due in part to the strategy of developing the whole person rather than just work-related skills."

"The security industry tends to employ people who come from low-skilled backgrounds. We have helped them improve their life skills," says Steve. "This has led to a more capable and talented work force that we can now task to do most things in the security business."

"Now, thanks to training provided by New College, I've got a group of highly skilled and cross-trained people we can give a task to with a level of confidence not seen before. They can even go away and coach other people to do these tasks."

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"It's all funded by the Government, which gives us the opportunity to grow our budget and focus on the nice-to-haves. There is much more money for training out there than people realise."

New College's Business Development Manager Sandra Williams arranged training in the workplace in skills ranging from literacy and numeracy to coaching, team leading, and acting as a security practitioner.



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