News Release

Leading learning and skills

PARENTING COURSE SUCCESS

LSC funding makes a real difference

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A Learning and Skills Council (LSC) course designed to help disadvantaged young parents in North Devon has far exceeded its targets and has been extended as a result.

The pilot course was originally designed to improve young peoples' life skills and future employment prospects. The results were astounding as not only did all but one of the participants pass the course, but over 30% now either have a job or begun university or college courses.

The Young Parenting Course is aimed at 16 -19 year olds who are pregnant or with young children, and neither working nor training for a job.

It delivers basic qualifications in paediatric first aid and food hygiene as well as developing skills in literacy, numeracy, parenting and child's play development. It also improves employability skills, letter and CV writing, form filling, discussion tactics and financial planning.

The pilot programme began in December 2007 with a view to targeting 50 people in the North Devon area aiming for 34 of those to finish with a qualification and 47 to pass the course.

When the course finished 52 people had taken part, 51 passed the course and gained a useful qualification.

Hilary Bussell, Project Co-ordinator at Torridge Training - a local community organisation based in Bideford which is dedicated to providing training that

supports individual needs whilst benefiting the wider community - devised and wrote the programme before approaching the LSC for funding.

She said: “I am so glad this course is being extended because there is a genuine need for this kind of approach and support. The pilot course proved such a success in boosting the young parents’ self-esteem and providing them with the confidence to move on and realise their full potential.”

Dr John Chudley, LSC Area Director for Devon and Cornwall, said: “The pilot has been extremely successful in that it has engaged with hard to reach learners and met the set targets. The course fits a niche in the market place by providing support to young parents, enabling them to gain confidence and empowering them to make decisions for themselves.

“I am delighted with the programme’s success and congratulate everyone involved.”

Ends

Note to Editors:

Learning and Skills Council:
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. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers. For more information visit: www.lsc.gov.uk/southwest

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