

ESF

in the East Midlands



Adult learners' week set to celebrate ESF success

Adult Learners' Week (ALW) 2009 will take place from 9 -15 May. The week long festival is organised by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) and is part-funded by ESF. It seeks to celebrate adult learners in all of their diversity, and to encourage other people to take up learning.

There will be national and regional awards ceremonies during that week. There is a press embargo on all winners until 27 April. NIACE will be contacting all the winners/non winners over the next few weeks.

The national ALW award ceremony will take place on 15 May in London. **Tony McNulty**, the DWP Minister responsible for ESF, is expected to present the national ESF awards.

Flying flag for Europe Day

On Saturday 9 May (and up to Friday 15 May) organisations across Europe will celebrate Europe Day by flying the European Union flag. The annual Europe Day celebrations mark the day in 1950 when the proposal was presented which led to the creation of what is now the European Union.

This year's Europe Day and the week to Friday 15 May offers a good opportunity to celebrate the early achievements of projects/participants in the 2007 - 2013 ESF programme including any ESF ALW award winners.

If you have interesting plans to celebrate the day/week and publicise ESF, please let **Jo Sheppard at COI News and PR** know. They can be featured in the May edition of this newsletter and also on the national ESF website.

ESF partners are welcome to mark Europe Day through events and other activities, however as the day/week falls in the pre-local/European election period, Government departments need to comply with restrictions that are placed on their communication activity during that time, so there will be no event or activities organised by COI News and PR or the CFOs.



More funding to help local redundant workers

Over £12m of ESF funding is set to benefit those in the East Midlands who have been redundant get back into work.

The funding will give providers more resources in the current economic climate and will help fill gaps in mainstream LSC funding for individuals under notice of redundancy or who have been made redundant.

Adults (aged 18 or over) and apprentices, under notice of redundancy or those recently made redundant, will be offered training to help them find sustainable jobs. Providers will continue to support individuals once they are back in the workforce through LSC Train to Gain or Apprenticeships funded programmes.

This provision will be rolled out from 27 April 2009.

New Co-financing Organisation joins the ESF team

The National Offender Management Service (**NOMS**) has been awarded ESF Co-financing Organisation status (CFO).

NOMS is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. It will co-finance ESF activities in all nine English regions, including the East Midlands, to develop the employability of offenders and ex-offenders to help them enter the labour market.

The tendering process for providers has already started and projects are expected to start by Autumn 2009.

County focus - Derbyshire

ANGELA'S FUTURE LOOKING GOOD THANKS TO ESF

A Derby teenager who has battled dyslexia now has her future nailed thanks to a project that helped her gain new skills and boost her confidence.

'Connected', run by Connexions Derbyshire, has been awarded £859,000 from ESF and the LSC East Midlands. It has helped **Angela Thompson**, 16, turn her interest in beauty therapy into an attractive career path.

Angela moved to Derby from North Yorkshire, and as a result, missed college enrolment, so was at a loss as to what to do next. She hadn't done as well as she'd hoped in her exams and had needed additional support during her time at school to help with her dyslexia. This had dented her confidence and left her feeling low about what she could go on to achieve.

She had always been interested in studying beauty therapy at school, but was nervous about committing herself to a course in it, just in case it wasn't for her. A personal adviser referred her on to the Connected programme which offers vocational tasters in a range of areas including beauty therapy.

Angela Thompson (left) with Connected co-ordinator, Rebecca O'Reilly



Within days, Angela began a course in beauty therapy run by East Midlands College of Health and Beauty in Derby.

Rebecca O'Reilly, Connected co-ordinator, based at Derby Connexions Centre explains; "Connected is for young people, aged 16 to 19, who haven't managed to find a job, course or training. It's a "hands-on" programme that gives them a taste of what they could do next, but also offers them the support they need to help them progress into other options like e2e (Entry to Employment) programmes, further education, employment or training."

Angela was offered a place on an NVQ Level 2 beauty therapy Apprenticeship, and puts her new direction solely down to the support she received from Connected.

"Without Becky's help I would probably be sat at home doing nothing. She gave me lots of support and I'm really enjoying my course!"



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County focus - Northamptonshire

ESF HELPS SPENCER BE MORE DRIVEN

A Northampton teenager who was excluded from school and unsure about his future is now steering towards a career as a mechanic with specialist high performance cars after attending an ESF project - and has ambitions to become his own boss!

The project 'Brighter Futures Plus', run by the Northamptonshire Training and Development Partnership (NTDP) has been awarded over £587,978 from ESF and the LSC East Midlands.

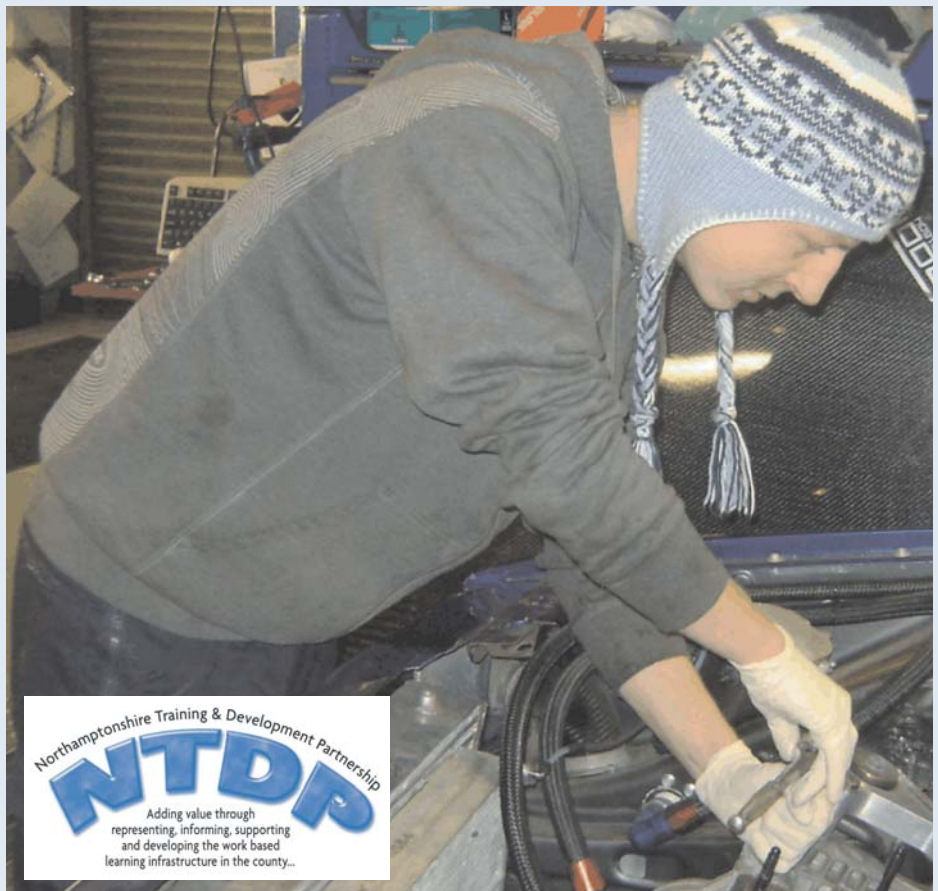
Spencer, 16, from Northamptonshire, was excluded from school during his final year and referred on to a summer activities programme at The Rushmere Academy. After taking part in a four day course he signed up to begin workplace training from September through Brighter Futures Plus in Daventry.

"I wasn't particularly happy in school and always got into trouble. After I got expelled I didn't go back.

When my friend said he was going along to The Rushmere Academy I thought I might as well join him. I really enjoyed it and got to know **Ian Mackay**, who runs the course, so when he mentioned the Options 2 course through Brighter Future Plus I thought I'd give it a go.

Ian found me the work experience at Jam-Sport and it was great. I couldn't believe it when they offered me an Apprenticeship; I just didn't know what to say. It's what I've always wanted to do and I really enjoy it.

I'm also studying at Northampton College and managed to get straight on to a Level 2 in motor vehicles maintenance. When I've finished that I can go on to do my Level 3. Eventually I would like to work for myself."



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Provider of the Month

Guiltsborough School is a Northamptonshire rural secondary school with students from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

In order to overcome the challenges of rural living and to provide students with the necessary skills for the future, they have developed a strong vocational curriculum and a diverse range of work experience placements for their older students. These range from gamekeeping to hairdressing and stablehand to superbike mechanic, with thanks to the goodwill of local employers.



Dedicated parents take on the role of taxi driver to take students to their placements as most live in rural areas with poor transport links.

Liz Reading, assistant head said;

“We believe that our work experience programmes help students make the transition from school to young adulthood and help them build the employability skills essential for a competitive job market. In fact, even a negative work experience can have a positive effect by motivating the student to knuckle down at school and achieve some good qualifications.”

Guiltsborough School

Those who are already benefitting from the placements include **Joshua Bennett**, 15, who works every Monday for R&G, a local landscaping and grounds maintenance firm.

Josh comments;

“I like the fact that I get to meet new people and have learned lots of different skills like how to put up fences, marking out pitches, cutting grass. It's also taught me that we have to meet deadlines otherwise customers wouldn't be happy.

At school I am doing the Btec construction course and hope to get some good grades so that I can do the construction course at Moulton College and then work full time for R&G.”



Jade Wheatley, 16, works every Friday at Grange Farm Stables, an equestrian facility providing a specialised service in the training, caring and rehabilitation of horses.

Jade said;

“I love it here. I get to meet new people every day and it has given me more confidence. I have learned many new skills, such as first aid for horses, how to fit saddles properly and new riding skills.

When I leave school next year I have a place at Moulton College to study vet nursing and equine studies.”

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More news

East Midlands gets three new innovative ESF Projects

Three new projects have been announced in the East Midlands thanks to ESF money specifically set aside to deliver innovative support.

The projects are part of 32 across the country worth £22m which will focus on getting disadvantaged groups back to work, supporting older workers and making sure unemployed people get all the help they need to find work. The projects are subject to satisfactory completion of contracts.

The three local projects are:

1. The Digital Activist Inclusion Network/ Workers Educational Association
2. E3 /Social Enterprise East Midlands
3. Creating E Business Champions/ Castle College, Nottingham

Employment Minister **Tony McNulty**, announcing the new projects said;

"We want to provide real help for unemployed people. This extra money will support people on their journey back to work and make sure they have the right skills for the jobs available."

POWER OF ESF PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS PEOPLE INTO WORK



A multi agency event brought together organisations in a bid to support Derby's unemployment agenda through a programme called JobMAETS (Job Multi Agency Employment Teams).

Funded through ESF, JobMAETS helps those currently unemployed and furthest away from the labour market into sustainable, paid jobs.

The event was organised by DWP and Jobcentre Plus, and supported by LSC and the Local Authority Consortium. The continued success of JobMAETS is dependent on the strength of the contract holders and partnerships developed and maintained throughout the county.

It the first time that the organisations have come together to help develop the programme across Derbyshire. And it is hoped that new partnerships will be formed which will create greater success in helping the number of people return to work across the county.

Emma Parker, Working Links Manager commented;

"We have been running the JobMAETS programme across Derby and parts of Derbyshire since July 2008 and have already seen hundreds of unemployed people needing help to get back into work. Our success in helping them achieve this has been through working in partnership with other organisations for training needs and finding job vacancies."

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We want your news!

If you have any ideas for articles, including 'County Focus' and 'Provider of the Month' please contact **Jo Sheppard at COI News and PR on 0115 971 2781**. The deadline for copy for May's edition is Friday 24 April 2009. Any stories or articles which focus on sustainable development, gender equality, cultural diversity and the community working together are particularly welcome, as these are themes which are high on the EU agenda.

