

ESF

in the East Midlands



John's Tough Journey to ESF Award Win

John Gerrard Kelly, 50, from Beeston, Nottingham has become the regional ESF winner for this year's Adult Learner Awards.

John wasn't diagnosed with severe dyslexia until four years ago. He was seen as being lazy and disruptive at school, left without any qualifications, and spent the next 20 years in and out of prison. Thanks to the opportunity to learn again during his rehabilitation, he has turned his life around and is working towards becoming a fully qualified counsellor.

John describes how he had "no hope, on a road to nowhere, a slave to drink and drugs". At 46, he was offered the chance to go to college through his rehab centre, and despite being terrified, he enrolled on a basic Spanish course. Gaining some confidence, he then enrolled on a drama course, leading to his tutor suggesting he may be dyslexic.

With the help of weekly specialist tuition from The Dyslexia Centre, John began a counselling course at the former Broxtowe College, now known as Castle College, completing a three-year counselling certificate in 2005, and is due to finish his counselling diploma this summer.

John is proud of what he has achieved; "I can now hold my head high and give back to others. Learning gives me scope and freedom, a better chance of employment and choices."



Using his recently acquired knowledge John is now working as a volunteer counsellor, at ADEPT (alcohol, drugs, education programme and training) with alcoholics and addicts and also completed 12 months of voluntary counselling work at The Priory Clinic.

John will collect his award the regional Adult Learners Award ceremony to be held at The Collection in Lincoln on 13 May.

The Dyslexia Association contact:

Barbara Yandell

0115 924 6884

Barbara.yandell@dyslexia-uk.net

NEW ESF WEBSITE FOR PROVIDERS SET TO GO LIVE

A new in-depth national website called 'ESF works' is being created to highlight East Midlands success. It is expected to go live in July.

Tribal, a media company that has designed websites for previous ESF programmes such as 'Equal works' www.equal-works.com has again been commissioned to create an easy-to-use website and multimedia database to support the ESF 2007-13 programme and complement the official ESF website. Each region will have its own dedicated pages showing not

only local facts, news, events and contacts but also other ways to help providers and policy makers share best practice, including:

- Online interviews/video diaries with ministers, policy makers, providers and participants
- Wider ranging and a more in-depth record of regional level ESF activities

East Midlands ESF press releases and an online version of this ESF newsletter will be posted on the new regional web pages, so now there's even more incentive to

send in your success stories, milestones, events, visits, photos - particularly if they relate to themes of sustainable development, gender equality, cultural diversity and the community working together, as these could also be featured on the new web pages from July.

Continue to send in all your information to:

Jo Sheppard at COI News and PR
on 0115 971 2781

jo.sheppard@coi.gsi.gov.uk

Provider of the Month

'A SPORTING CHANCE' SCORES HAT TRICK FOR TEENS

Three Notts youngsters have had their confidence boosted thanks to joining an ESF project. 'A Sporting Chance' is aimed at 16-19 year-olds to help get them back into training or education and increase their with long-term job prospects.

The teenagers have been learning various skills and football coaching techniques and even getting experience of coaching children to give them a fresh goal in life.

Retford trio **Simon Wright, John Alexandra** and **Jamie Wright**, all 16, are all now studying for a Sports Leader UK Level 3 Higher Sports Leader qualification thanks to the project. They also help out with sports lessons at North Notts College where they are all students studying BTEC Level 1 Introductory Diploma in Sports & Leisure. They also use their coaching skills by volunteering in the local community.

John said;

"Before I joined the project I wasn't confident at all and would be the sort of person who would stand in the corner and not want to join in, but I have built up so much confidence passing my Level 1 and 2 that I see sports coaching as a long term career.

Jamie commented;

"This project has helped me so much. I now spend some of my spare time helping coach my local basketball team, the Retford Raiders and use the skills I've learned doing the football coaching such as the importance of team work and keeping up team spirit".

Simon also coaches a young football team, Babworth Rovers, where the players are aged 6-8 years old. As part of the build up, Simon gets the players to all shout 'Babworth' and so far this has proved to be part of a winning formula.

Simon, John and Jamie may also get the chance to next year to coach in Germany and France as part of twinning arrangements with these countries.

Simon commented;

"We would all love to get this opportunity to teach abroad, get to learn different techniques. It's definitely always been a dream of mine."

While all three agree that getting the chance to coach on the continent would be a

winner - the only thing they will never agree on is the best football team - while Jamie supports local team Doncaster United, Simon is a Manchester United fan and John supports Liverpool!

Chris Dukes, from Bassetlaw District Council, who run the course, pays tribute to the teenagers;

"We have witnessed such a transformation in them over the last three years of working with them all and are proving to be naturals when it comes to team motivation. I hope that all continue to find success in this field as a long term career."



A coaching session with Babworth Rovers

Cheryl Goes Back to the Future to Discover Dream Job

Cheryl Davis, 24, from the Market Rasen area, has been helped to preserve her dream of working in a museum by attending a Future Focus course.

Cheryl had always wanted to work in a museum, but didn't know where to start.



"I had no idea of how to get the voluntary work I wanted and felt no one would ever take me on because I had no experience," she said.

Working alongside **Kelly**, the Future Focus course tutor, Cheryl set up a learning plan designed to unlock the path to her ideal career. She then got a place on a travel and tourism course at Lincoln College.

Cheryl then turned her attention to getting some voluntary work.

"I put my heart and passion for the subject into my covering letters. It took a few weeks but finally my hard work paid off."

Cheryl has been offered several weeks of paid work with a local archaeologist, and is due to start this June.

"I have become a 'go out and get 'em' kind of girl," Cheryl said.

Cheryl describes the support she received while on the 12 week Future Focus course as 'overwhelming' with 'constant encouragement and support.'

"I have really enjoyed my time on this project and it has been a tremendous help, not only to my confidence but to securing a place at college in September and getting my feet firmly in the museum field."

Charles Gets Confidence Boost from Future Focus

Charles Harrington, joined Future Focus after being made redundant.

"My confidence was low and I felt that at my age, I might be passed over for a younger person."

One of Charles's biggest barriers was his lack of computer skills.

"Until I started this course I did not know that you could look for jobs on the internet."

Charles worked closely with **Kelly**, the project tutor, to set up an e-mail account, type up a CV and learn how to job search using the internet.

Charles decided he could do with enhancing his computer skills further. As a result he is enrolling on a 'Computers for Beginners' Course at CG Partnership, based in Market Rasen.

Through attending the Future Focus project, Charles has recognised a need to attain a qualification in both literacy and numeracy. As a result he is going to access these courses through Learn Direct.

During the course Charles has worked very hard, consequently he has attended two job interviews. He has been offered one of these positions and is still waiting to hear from the other.

Charles said, "I would recommend this course because the content has what you need to prepare you to get back into employment. I now feel more confident about job searches and interviews."

The Future Focus project is run by Lincolnshire County Council through the Local Authority ESF Co-Financing Consortium.



The Future Focus contact:

Hannah Taylor- Dales

01673 842700

Hannah.taylor-dales@axiomha.org.uk

County focus - Derbyshire



YMCA

DERBYSHIRE

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Film cameras came to YMCA recently to record the progress of its new building, 'The Campus', due to be opened this August. The site will have improved training facilities and help deliver many of its ESF funded projects.

The film, commissioned by the Foreign and Commonwealth

Office is due to be edited and posted on You Tube and also feature recipients of ESF from around the country.

Meanwhile at another YMCA site at Ilkeston, young people on an ESF community project gave it a spring clean by painting the new training rooms.

YMCA Contact:
Angela Coyle
01332 364128
Angela.Coyle@YMCADerbyshire.org.uk

LSC contact:
Leigh Mckenzie
Tel: 07770 736552
Leigh.mckenzie@lsc.gov.uk

ESF OFFICER SEES LOCAL PROJECT AT WORK

ESF officer, **Gwendolyne Orchard** visited Phoenix Enterprises in Chesterfield, who were awarded a DWP, Flexible Routeways contract for North East Derbyshire.

Gwendolyne, based at the European Commission in Brussels heard how Phoenix delivers individually tailored plans to help local people into jobs. Jobcentre Plus advisors also go to



Phoenix's premises to help and advise people on the project.

Individuals are given support to overcome issues such as debts, criminal records, homelessness, and drug/alcohol issues, and to recognise individual needs of specific target groups such as lone parents, older workers, carers and offenders.

Phoenix Enterprise contact:
Lisa Whitehead
Tel: 01246 211800
whitehead@phoenixent.org.uk

County focus - Nottinghamshire

Care Training showcases its classroom on the move

ESF provider Care Training is helping celebrate Adult Learners' Week by showcasing its innovative technology at the Nottingham's Broadmarsh Centre on 15 May.

Its mobile classroom handily fits into a case so can be taken to an employer's premises for assessments and teaching. So far it has helped in the teaching of literacy and numeracy but the possibilities are endless. All that is needed is a blank wall to project an 'e-beam' onto, which then performs as

an interactive whiteboard.

The Mobile Classroom has already been used successfully with Nottingham based company National Autoparts. After seeing the effect of the training on employees, **Lucy Watson**, human resources manager comments, "it's an impressive piece of kit."

Care Training
East Midlands
www.CTEM.uk.com



Care Training contact:
Rachel Knight
Tel: 0115 959 9544
rachel.knight@ctem.uk.com

LSC contact:
Bea Parmar
Tel: 0115 935 2109
bea.parmar@lsc.gov.uk

County focus - Northamptonshire

LEARNING IS ALL WRAPPED UP FOR NORTHANTS PACKAGING COMPANY

Up to 100 workers at a Northamptonshire packaging firm are set to benefit from new skills training thanks to an ESF-funded Train to Gain project.

Rigid Containers, based in Desborough, who produce point of sale containers for big-name supermarkets and other large blue chip customers are due to sign a learning agreement during Adults Learners' Week (13 May) after receiving help and advice from 'Skills for life', run by Unionlearn, part of the TUC (Trade Union Congress) on behalf of LSC. The project is helping businesses improve the skills and competence of their employees by setting up training plans and increasing links to their Union Learn service, which aims to '*strengthen employees' voice in the workplace.*'

Already dozens of employees have expressed an interest in the training on offer, such as courses on improving literacy, ESOL courses (English for speakers of other languages) and health and safety training, which are all due to start over the summer.

Company training manager **Jane Lawson** said;

"The people from Union Learn, such as **Graham Randall**, have been brilliant; it's been like having my own local training expert, with all the local contacts and advice I could ever need. We have almost 300 workers here and many of the shop-floor workers are from Poland and Slovakia, so it's vital we support them on improving their English where necessary and ensuring health and safety training."

And despite the current economic situation Jane says;

"It is more important than ever to invest in staff, particularly when it comes to health and safety, as everyone must look to the long term."

Graham added;

"This has been a fantastic partnership approach with a local company due to sign up for this learning agreement. It's also a great way to celebrate the forthcoming Adult Learners Week.

GMB union has also been very supportive of developing a learning culture at the Desborough site via their education and health and safety officer **Craig Stuart** and local rep **Chas Henderson.**"



TUC contact:
Graham Randle
Tel: 0121 236 4454
grandle@tuc.org.uk

LSC contact:
Lorna Goldring
Tel: 07775 922858
lorna.gouldring@lsc.gov.uk

County focus - Leicestershire

ESF Project Marks its Commitment to Staff Skills

An ESF-funded project made a very public pledge to invest in, and improve the skills of its staff at an LSC event in Melton Mowbray.

CVS Community Partnership (CCP) signed up to the Skills Pledge, which is a voluntary public commitment by the head of an organisation to enable all employees to develop their skills to at least a Level 2 qualification.

Mick O'Hara is manager of Voluntary & Community Sector Opportunities for Learning in Leicester Shire (VOCOLLS) at CCP. He marked the organisation's commitment to the Skills Pledge by rolling up his sleeve and placing a paint-

covered hand print on canvas.

He commented; "Taking the Skills Pledge shows how committed we are to investing in our employees' continued development. Placing a hand print on canvas symbolises our support for the Learning and Skills Council's campaign, 'Our Future. It's in our hands'. This canvas will serve as a constant reminder of our commitment to fulfil the Skills Pledge."

VOCOLLS is currently involved in ESF Community Grants. The programme is designed to assist small not-for-profit groups based in, and run by people from, the community they support.



VOCOLLS contact:
Mick O'Hara
Tel: 0116 2293019
mick@ccp.org.uk

Information on the Skills Pledge:
<http://inourhands.lsc.gov.uk>

More news

Angela's ESF story hits the press

28th April, 2009

Derby
Telegraph

Struggling teen gets Connected

A DERBY teenager who has battled dyslexia is now forging ahead with her career thanks to a European-funded project.

Angela Thompson, 16, has been helped by a £859,000 project called Connected, run by Connexions Derbyshire, which gives help and advice to 13-to-19-year-olds.

Angela had not done as well as she had hoped in her exams, but she visited Derbyshire Connexions Centre in Curzon Street, Derby. She said: "I was referred on to the Connected programme – which offers vocational tasters. Within days, I began a course in beauty therapy run by East Midlands College of Health and Beauty in Derby."

Angela has now been offered a place on an NVQ level two beauty therapy apprenticeship.



connexions

DERBYSHIRE

Connexions Derbyshire contact:

Fiona McKinlay

Tel: 01773 570 939 - ext 258

Fiona.McKinlay@connexions-derbyshire.org

LSC contact:

Mel Alsop

Tel: 07810 656303

Melanie.alsop@lsc.gov.uk

We want your news!

If you think an individual on one of your projects also deserves to be featured in the local media and have their photos taken, please contact **Jo Sheppard at COI News and PR** on 0115 971 2781. The deadline for copy for June's edition is Friday 29 May 2009. Don't forget we also want to hear about any project milestone or interesting visits you would like to promote.

