

## Skills Support for the Workforce: Cooke Training Services

Skills Support for the Workforce is a European Social Fund funded scheme to help improve the skills of employees and volunteers working in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. The delivery partners are Leicester College, Loughborough College, South Leicestershire College and Stephenson College and capacity building partners are One East Midlands, Enable, Business2Business and EMFEC.

Located in Beaumont Leys and established in 2005 to help low income Leicester residents learn how to use computers and have internet access, Cooke Training Services is one organisation that has benefited from Skills Support for the Workforce.

The organisation, which is part of Cooke e-Learning Foundation, offers a range of accredited training, volunteering opportunities, work experience placements, signposting to further learning opportunities and career advice, computer recycling, and IT sales and repairs for small businesses, voluntary groups and individuals.



## COOKE TRAINING

Starting at Cooke Training Services as a volunteer over eight years ago and working up to the position of Education and Training Manager, Martin Buchanan found out about Skills Support for the Workforce when Enable, the voluntary and community sector learning and skills consortium for the East Midlands, visited his workplace and discussed the various free training available.

This led to Martin enrolling on the Information, Advice and Guidance, Level 3 course, which across four units covered how to establish communication skills; how to support a client to make use of a service; how to develop and sustain the interaction; and how to complete an action plan with the client. Martin chose the course to improve his future work and career prospects and help him to assist his learners and clients in a more proactive way.

For information on Cooke Training Services visit <http://cooketrainingservices.com> and for Skills Support for the Workforce visit [www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/skillssupportfortheworkforce](http://www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/skillssupportfortheworkforce).

*“I am a strong believer in lifelong learning and it is good to get a qualification that reinforces the work that I already do.”*

Martin Buchanan