

Skills Support for the Workforce: Faith in People

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.

One Leicester charity that has benefited from the scheme is Faith in People, whose mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of people living with HIV and provide support and advice for those affected by HIV. The charity works with people of faith and non-faith, helping users of their services to come to terms with their diagnosis.

Vicky Brooks, Adult Support Worker at Faith in People, began the Internal Quality Assurance Assessment Award, Level 4 course, at Leicester College in October 2014. The course covers internal quality assurance of the assessment process within a centre or organisation, by sampling planning, monitoring and advising on the practice of assessors. This



includes both the verification of competence based qualifications and moderation of taught programmes in a learning environment.

Made up of two assignments and a day a week in college, the course builds on Vicky's previous training qualification and quality assurance course and will enable the charity to set up an accredited course for its service users and transfer the knowledge Vicky has gained when applying for other quality assurance marks.

Vicky found out about the scheme when Enable, the voluntary and community sector learning and skills consortium for the East Midlands, visited the charity and discussed the various free training available. Vicky found the course easy to apply for and found everyone involved in the process and at Leicester College helpful and supportive.

Vicky and Faith in People's Chief Executive, Ian Clowes, would highly recommend Skills Support for the Workforce to others, with Ian stating:

"If there are courses that can enhance skills and offer users something that fits their needs then it makes it better for everyone."

Faith in People is also looking to use the scheme to help the unemployed volunteers at its recently opened charity shop in Hinckley to complete customer service courses, enabling them to gain qualifications and return to work.

For information on Faith in People visit www.faithinpeople.co.uk and for information on Skills Support for the Workforce visit www.oneeastmidlands.org.uk/skillssupportfortheworkforce.