

YMCA Derbyshire



One of the oldest YMCAs in the world, founded in 1847, YMCA Derbyshire is an independent Christian charity committed to helping young people at times of need, regardless of gender, ability or faith. It operates across four centres in the county, two in Derby, including the Campus, and one each in Chesterfield and Ilkeston.

Located in Wilmorton, Derby and based on the concept of a university campus, the Campus brings together 88 units of supported accommodation, learning and development facilities, meeting and conference facilities, an enterprise zone, a public café and office spaces on a single integrated site. The site was opened by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester in November 2010.

Gillian Sewell, Chief Executive of YMCA Derbyshire, said: “The new Campus building is, quite literally a dream come true. The initial vision of an integrated

facility...has become a reality.”

An important aspect of YMCA Derbyshire’s work is to enable people to achieve their potential and play a full part in society, regardless of their circumstances or past experiences. To help achieve this, it delivers effective training programmes and work-based learning opportunities to people of all ages and abilities through its centres.

This training includes a contract from the Young People’s Learning Agency to provide Foundation Learning programmes for 16 to 18-year-olds, to work towards qualifications in early learning and playwork, health and social care, retailing and wholesaling, hospitality and catering, and literacy and numeracy.

Empowering and supporting communities is another important part of this work, and is carried out by YMCA Derbyshire through projects and services including the North Derbyshire Furniture Project, Renew Maintenance Ltd and its Derby Hospitality Service.



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YMCA Derbyshire has recently been working with local housing provider Housing 21 to provide training opportunities for young people studying courses in hospitality and social care. This has resulted in the residents and young people valuing the opportunity to learn from and respect each other.

The scheme has also provided other mutual benefits, with learners gaining work experience, an up-to-date qualification, improved self-confidence and social skills. Over half have gained employment or a college place at the end of the programme.

For the residents, the scheme has broken down barriers, leading them to be less marginalised in society by mixing with the wider community, and enjoying the company of and accepting the young people, regardless of their pasts.

On the training partnership, Tracie Tunnicliffe, Catering and Hospitality Coordinator at YMCA Derbyshire, said: "It's improved their confidence, and they love it so much, they volunteer whenever we offer them the chance to be involved in more activities... The residents value it too – they've learnt to look beyond the 'hoody' and baseball cap."

The scheme, which recently won a prestigious 'United for All Ages' award, has now expanded into new partnerships, including with Derby Homes and Anchor Trust.

To mark its 165th anniversary in 2012, YMCA Derbyshire is now on a mission to recruit 165 new partners and friends,

"YMCA has given countless people a sound start in life over the last 165 years and I look forward to them continuing to do so for another 165"

Cllr. Les Allen, Mayor of the City of Derby, 2011-12

"YMCA Derbyshire has remained true to its original Christian identify and mission by extending a warm welcome to everyone and working to develop young people in body, mind and spirit"

The Rt Revd Dr Alistair Redfern, Bishop of Derby

including individuals, churches, businesses and other organisations, to support their work through prayer, financial donations, voluntary work or donations in kind. This extra support, through Project 165, will help maintain its work and develop its mission in the future, whilst remaining needs-led rather than politically driven.

For further information on YMCA Derbyshire visit www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk.