

# Successful Intervention with Training Plus Merseyside

Childcare learners who are due to complete their Level 3 qualifications this year with Training Plus Merseyside, attended an Aimhigher VPR presentation on Wednesday 13th August.

20 learners attended the evening; interacting in the workshop to explore advanced qualifications and career opportunities within the Early Years sector and beyond their current qualification levels. Evaluations from the evening indicated a very positive response from the learners. Trainers June Lloyd and Kelly Hodgson commented on the Training Plus website that, "Learners had very relevant and pertinent questions for the guest presenter"; these showed that learners are interested in progressing beyond the accepted level 3 threshold to investigate the possibility of levels 4, 5 & 6 in relation to job roles in the sector. Students were fascinated by the descriptions of advanced industry professional roles such as Day Nursery Manager, Children's Centre Manager and Family Centre Manager for example". Training Plus thanked Alana Clough for her support on getting this exciting and interesting enhancement day for learners off the ground.



Before the intervention 94% of the cohort wanted to achieve their Advanced Apprenticeship, 6% wanted to go onto a degree.

After the intervention 44% wanted to gain a Foundation Degree or equivalent, 34% wanted to achieve a degree and 22% wanted to achieve a Masters.

**The learners were asked to Agree/Disagree to the**

**following statements regarding the intervention:**

1. I have learned more about Higher Education - 94% of the cohort agreed with this statement.
2. As a result of this session I am more likely to continue in training – 89% of the cohort agreed with this statement.
3. As a result of this session I am more likely to go onto Higher Education – 83% of the cohort agreed with this statement.
4. This intervention has made me more motivated with my studies – 89% of the cohort agreed with this statement.



## Employer Engagement

On Wednesday 29th October the VPR team undertook employer and employee engagement through a progression routes awareness day at the Mann Island construction site where all the sub contractor firms and employees were able to attend. The team are currently involved with developing a skills centre on site. More details to follow.

## The VPR Team meet the New Mentors and Advocates 3rd October 2008

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The VPR team conducted two sessions with UOL Advocates and Staff as well as Graduate Mentors from a cross Greater Merseyside. The interventions were arranged by Mary Fletcher, Educational Opportunities Manager (UOL) who said after the intervention, "The session was extremely well received by our team—who all came out of it feeling much more confident in their ability to offer vocationally related IAG to our learners". Twenty-two advocates/mentors attended sessions which included an introduction to the benefits of vocational education and vocational higher education as well as



included activities regarding IAG and part time student finance. The mentors and advocates were given resources to support them in discussing vocational education with young people. The groups undertook a pre and post intervention evaluation on their understanding of vocational education. on a scale of 1 to 10 the initial average response was 3 out of 10 and on completion this had increased to 8 out of 10. The groups also evaluated the resources provided and agreed that they would be of use to them in their work with young people within schools.

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## Wirral Metropolitan College

17<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Ten second year Btec National Diploma in Health and Social Care learners benefited from an Vocational Progression Routes Intervention delivered by the VPR team. The intervention included: The benefits of full time and part time university, alternative part time and full time higher level qualifications, lifelong learning, vocational learning and vocational full time degrees, differences between Diplomas of Higher Education and Degrees, NHS bursaries & entry profiles. The learners also took part in a quiz relating to higher level qualifications.

Gender: 100% of the cohort were female.

Age: 20% were 17, 70% were 18, 10% were 21.

First Generation: 60% of the cohort would be first generation into HE if they were to attend university.

Due to the intervention:

80% of the cohort agreed they had learned more about vocational education.

80% of the cohort agreed they had learned more about higher education.

100% agreed they were now more likely to go on to higher education.

100% of the learners agreed the intervention was good.

90% of the learners agreed the intervention was interesting.

80% of the learners agreed the intervention was useful.

100% of the learners agreed the intervention was well organised.

Many thanks to Cathy Grant for arranging this intervention.

# A New Project for the VPR Programme: Vocational Champions

The VPR Programme are working with 4 training providers across Merseyside; St Helens Chamber of Commerce, Alder Training, Rocket Training and Asset Training. A Vocational Champion is an operational member of staff who works with and supports the vocational learners on a day to day basis. A model has been produced by the VPR team that will allow vocational champions to provide a coherent homogeneous programme in the four providers ensuring all learners receive tiered sequential interventions to promote higher level learning. The model includes awareness and benefits of progression routes. Its aim is to provide a sustainable source of IAG, Monitor and track learners into HE, Embed a culture and ethos of vocational progression within their institution & develop partnerships with providers of HE. Initial training has begun as part of the champion's self development, training will take place throughout the programme including shadowing and guidance. Identified learner cohorts will receive three interventions between the period of December and July.

## **Intervention 1 will include:**

- Vocational Awareness
- What is HE
- Where Next
- Benefits of Progression
- Life long Learning
- Learner Review

## **Team Update Website**

Over the summer the VPR team have updated their website. The home page allows online users to select various parts of the Vocational Progression Toolkit which is relevant to them: Practitioner, Employers, Learners and Parents. The team have also added more resources and activities for use by practitioners and their learners. Many thanks to Richard Finch for his support.

## **Intervention 2 will include either:**

Invited speakers from employers or universities who are positive role models for the young people.

Or

A visit to a large employer.

Or

A sector specific university visit.

## **Intervention 3 will include:**

Finance

Study Skills

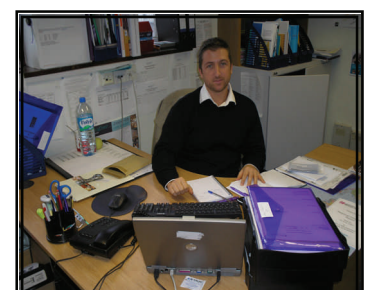
Personal Statements

Application Forms

Evaluation

Learner Review 2

The VPR team working in conjunction with the training providers will track and monitor the Apprentices at 12 and 24 months after they have completed their Advanced Apprenticeships. Further information will be available in future newsletters.



# Vocational courses lead to better life chances

Vocational qualifications make a big difference to career prospects. That's the message from a survey by YouGov, released ahead of the first national celebration of vocational qualifications on 23rd July. Compared with people who have degrees, holders of vocational qualifications are:

- Half as likely to spend a long time looking for work.

23 per cent more likely to feel ready to work from day one.

But it's not a case of either a degree or a vocational qualification. 35 per cent of people with degrees told YouGov that they had later gone on to achieve a vocational qualification as well.

The research also highlights the benefits to those who have taken a vocational qualification as adults:

- Over a quarter (26 per cent) who took a vocational qualification received a pay rise as a direct result of their qualification, double the 13 per cent who received an increase following an academic qualification.
- 22 per cent report being more interested in their work, compared to 16 per cent of those returning to academia.
- 21 per cent report their employer paid more attention to their career, compared to 11 per cent.
- 17 per cent achieved a promotion after gaining a vocational qualification, compared to 12 per cent of those who returned to the academic route.

In figures which show the extent of business investment in staff, half of respondents (47 per cent) reported their employer paid for the whole vocational course, while a quarter (23 per cent) paid for their course themselves and one in five (19 per cent) took a course which was publicly funded.

What's more, most adults support vocational qualifications. More than half (57%) of would encourage young people to take a vocational qualification.

Source: [www.edge.co.uk](http://www.edge.co.uk)

## St Edmund of Canterbury

21<sup>st</sup> October 2008

A group of Year 11 learners from St Edmund of Canterbury benefited from an Vocational Progression Routes Intervention delivered by the VPR team.

The intervention included:

A discussion around where the learners wanted to be in 10 years time.

Progression Routes to Higher Education.

What is Higher Education?

The learners discussed their own progression routes

Where to get further information from and a

Vocational HE Quiz

Gender: 25% female, 75% male

Age: 25% 16, 75% 15

First Generation: 75% of the cohort would be first generation to HE if they were to attend university.

Due to the intervention:

100% of the learners wanted to study to a higher level,

100% wanted to do this via the vocational route.

100% of the cohort agreed they had learned more about vocational education.

100% of the cohort agreed they had learned more about higher education.

100% agreed they were now

more likely to go on to higher education.

100% of the learners agreed the intervention was good.

100% of the learners agreed the intervention was interesting.

100% of the learners agreed the intervention was useful.

100% of the learners agreed the intervention was well organised.

Many thanks to Steve Alcock for arranging this intervention.

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greater merseyside