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Learning to Work Project

Aims of Presentation

- Who is Shelforce?
- Establishing the Project Outline
- Project Overview
 - Project Awareness Sessions
 - Facilitated Intervention Sessions
 - Outcomes & Feedback



- Based in Erdington, Birmingham
- Current provider of Workstep Contract in Birmingham
 - Supported Factory
 - 75 of 106 employees currently supported by Workstep Contract
 - 70% of workforce
 - Various roles within factory
 - Production Operatives (PVCu Doors and Windows)
 - Administration and Data Input
 - Stores and Logistics
 - Catering
 - Future Projects
 - Additional 46 individuals and 23 employers supported across the Birmingham area.

Establishing the Project Outline

- Initial Project Proposal
 - CV Building
 - Interview Techniques
 - Job Searching Techniques
 - Covered By existing provision
 - Something Different
- Final Project Outline
 - Visit to Shelforce
 - Raise students awareness of employment options
 - Motivational – focus on successful completion of education
 - What to expect from the workplace
 - Job Roles
 - Appropriate workplace behaviour
 - Environment

Project Overview

Project Awareness Sessions

- Presented to 4 groups at Birmingham Metropolitan College, James Watt Campus.
- Current perceptions of employment
 - Previous/Current jobs and work experience
 - Motivations to gain employment
 - Knowledge of how and where to find a job
- Invitation to Shelforce

Facilitated Intervention Sessions

- 6 groups to attend Shelforce
- Realistic Example of Workplace
 - Introduction and welcome from General Manager
 - Tour of factory
 - Variety of job roles
 - Positive examples of disability employment
 - Examples of reasonable adjustments
 - Holistic benefits of employment

- **Employment Support**
 - **Benefits of Employment Support**
 - **Examples of Employment Support**
 - **Task Sheets**
 - **Access to Work**
 - **Signposting**
 - **Aims of Employment Support**
 - **Progression from supported employment**
 - **Sustained progression from supported employment**
 - **6 months**
 - **Maintain long-term employment**
- **Referrals**
 - **How to make a referral**
 - **What happens once a referral has been made?**
- **Q&A session with Employment Support Team, Managers, Employees and Workstep Clients**

Project Outcomes and Feedback

- Outcomes
 - 7 Initial Enquiries
 - 6 Work Experience Placements
 - Long-Term Work Placement Scheme
- Feedback

“The whole visit was extremely interesting and exactly what the students needed to open their eyes to work and give them a practical sense of work”

(Jeremy Curzon, Lecturer @ Birmingham Metropolitan College)