

Learning and Employment NEWS



Autumn 2008

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P3 Family Fun



P4 Celebrating Success



Making a real difference!

Residents of Leigh received a real boost with the official opening of a new One Stop Shop for skills and employment.

The Leigh Skills Shop was officially opened by Andy Burnham MP and the former Mayor of Wigan, Cllr John O'Brien. It has already made a real difference in broadening the opportunities for local people to access work and training.

The Leigh Skills Shop was funded through Coalfield Community Challenge and now it is funded through the Deprived Area Fund. It is managed by Wigan Council's Learning and Employment Service, to offer links to the development of Leigh Sports Village and the growing employment opportunities in the Leigh area. However, it has been so successful, that the 'Shop' now links local people to jobs outside the borough and to colleges and training providers.



Since the Shop started operating, it has supported over 800 people with careers advice and guidance, and has increased the skills and qualifications of more than 200 people. Over 80 people have been helped into work and almost 300 have been assisted to find employment.

The Shop has a unique approach in the borough by having local partners based in its premises. These include Working Wonders, Pathway to Work, Progress2work, Remploy and a member of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

A winning team!

The IAG team has won the Highly Commended award for *Raising Aspirations and Opportunities for All*.

Every year, Wigan Council recognises the achievements of teams who have made a significant impact on the delivery of services to local people. This year, 12 teams made the shortlist for the final of Team of the Year, held at the Wigan Investment Centre, where recognition was given to the work of the Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Team in Learning and Employment.

Last year, the service helped over 1,000 people into work through supporting employers in recruiting local people and by helping people made redundant to find alternative employment. The team was crucial to the success of the Grand Arcade recruitment process and they worked with Littlewoods Shop Direct, helping over 300 to find work, following redundancies. They supported others through Marsh Green and Ince libraries, Tyldesley and Shakerley SureStart Centres, Children's and ACL Centres.



* Pictured at the awards: Back (L to R): Joyce Redfearn (Chief Executive Wigan MBC), Cllr Susan Loudon, Anthony Mohammed (Head of Learning and Employment), Tracey Mountford, Karen Winrow, Anne Doyle, Jim Moseley. Front (L to R): Sheila Hunt, Angela Saint-Ruth, Lynne Davison, Rita Lees.

Volunteers are Working Wonders

Wigan-based Skills for Life provider, Working Wonders, is training volunteers to help adults with low levels of reading ability.

Manager, Joyce Hanlon, has adapted a reading programme for use with adults. She said: "Participants in our pilot project had very low levels of literacy and had experienced failure in basic reading tasks."

Reading is a fundamental skill and, since all jobs require a functional reading level, finding and sustaining employment is difficult. The reading programme breaks the cycle of failure. The low set-up and running costs of the programme give it flexibility,

meaning it can be delivered where and when it is needed. For details of becoming a volunteer, please contact Working Wonders (01942 498600).



*Pictured are volunteers receiving their certificates: Catherine Tomlinson, Catherine Penldebury, Noel Wilde, Sylvia Kenyon and Andrea McCabe.

Bernard Murphy
August 1947 - June 2008

Please see tributes
to Bernard on page 2

