

# Turning Point and Stourbridge

## Partnership provides success

Turning Point is one of the UK's leading social care organisations, providing services for people with complex needs, including those affected by drug and alcohol misuse, mental health problems and those with a learning disability. Last year Turning Point provided over 250 services and worked with over 100,000 people.

### THE PARTNERSHIP

As part of their Education, Employment and Day Programme, Turning Point is working with Stourbridge College at Atlantic House in Lye, Stourbridge to up-skill people to help them to return to work.

They are currently working with four groups of learners (20 in total), on a level 1 programme with another four groups (24 in total), ready to commence within the next few weeks. They also have a group of six students who are waiting to progress to level 2 on completion of level 1.



*" Working in partnership with Stourbridge College has already proved extremely worthwhile, to see our service users attending, taking part and enjoying what they are doing is a success in itself and I can only see it going from strength and strength"* > Kate Beale

### THE PROCESS

Philip Beasley who is Stourbridge College's IT lecturer, visits the Atlantic House venue in Lye for two days per week and there are another two days delivered by other tutors.



*"Many of these people missed out on traditional schooling and virtually all of them have had doors slammed in their faces at one time or another. When you consider that their age group ranges from early twenties to mid thirties, no-one should entertain giving up on them and their prospects of a brighter future."* > Philip Beasley

The primary aim of the ITQ is to help them get back into work, so in many cases we are combining it with other qualifications such as Portable Appliance Testing and Essential Skills. As it is all targeted to help them find work, they are taking modules on writing a curriculum vitae, letter writing and e-mail. One learner wants to get into IT so he is taking the web design module too.



*"Without exception all the learners are extremely appreciative of the help they are getting and this is borne out in the quality of the work they are producing"*. > Philip Beasley

## THE SUCCESS

Most of the learners have said that they want to progress to the next level. For any organisation considering improving the IT skills of their staff or clients, its flexibility means it can be tailored to suit the learning needs of the individual and the organisation.



*"I would definitely recommend the ITQ qualification because unlike other more prescriptive qualifications."* > Kate Beale



*"I am really enjoying the course, I am gaining new skills and a qualification for the first time ever, it's a great opportunity for me and I am looking forward to going onto the next level".* > Client

Stourbridge College and Turning Point are operating under the auspices of the Warehouse (Dudley Drug Project) which works to reduce the harm experienced by drug and alcohol users, their families and the communities in which they reside, in all their diversity in the Dudley Borough.

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Prepared by Warwickshire College

