



Stoke on College

Experimentation Pays Off

Stoke on Trent College have a variety of clients and are experimenting with a variety of different ITQ delivery methods. One example is Featherstone Prison in Wolverhampton, where an education and training service is available for all prisoners. Their existing skills are assessed and basic and key skills are taught where required, in addition to vocational qualifications such as the ITQ.



"This is in line with key performance targets set up to reduce re-offending."

> Linda McQuade: Training Manager Stoke College

Within the prison, there is a Desktop Publishing Centre where the prisoners are paid to carry out a variety of tasks including generating posters and leaflets for other prisons. Stoke on Trent College has recently appointed an on-site assessor to guide these workers, within this Centre, through their ITQ with the aim of helping to prepare them for employment when they leave prison.



"We have had to overcome many barriers to deliver this programme, however the long term benefits for both inmates, prison service and our College will be beneficial."

> Linda McQuade: Training Manager Stoke College

FLEXIBILITY PAYS OFF WITH UNEMPLOYED

In addition, Stoke on Trent College are training people referred from Job Centre Plus to the College's own Programme Centre. Learners have registered onto a 13-week programme of activity which includes job search, CV creation, letters of application etc. and their target is to find employment after the programme has been completed. To complement this activity, clients have been enrolled onto an ITQ Level 1 programme, which accepts all the work they generate as evidence for their ITQ.



"One example which is working well for the ITQ, is delivering the City and Guilds E-Equals level 2 in it to a group of unemployed learners."

> Linda McQuade: Training Manager Stoke College

Once this qualification has been completed and achieved, work placements have been found for these learners. Once in the workplace they only have to achieve the ITQ mandatory unit as they can APL their E-Equals qualification towards it. The end result is two nationally recognised qualifications, at a Level 2, within approximately 6 months."

The College has held meetings with a local school wishing to up-skill their support staff with the ITQ qualification and a local company, who make air bags for cars, have agreed to register employees onto the qualification as they have a keen interest in improving the IT skills of their staff through the ITQ.



"The ITQ is a very good qualification because it is so flexible. We are working with prisons, the unemployed and employed and we are experimenting with a variety of different models of delivery to enable us to meet both employer and individual needs."

> Linda McQuade: Training Manager Stoke College

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