

Team Brief

Passport Plus secures funding for another year

The Passport Plus programme, aimed at developing skills for an independent future, is set to run for a further year in Derby after funding was secured through a working partnership with the Derby Adult Learning Service.

The programme will no longer be reserved to those in supported accommodation but will be open to all those who are 19 years or over and fulfil certain other criteria.

The programme will be run in Derby three days a week. Learners can gain an Award after four weeks, plus a half-day tutorial session at the end. After this they can progress to a four-week certificate programme.

The programme includes a number of leisure activities with all costs covered and aims to develop skills attractive to employers, including teamwork. Learners will receive support with budgeting, resettlement and understanding the rights and responsibilities of tenants. They will also be given access to computers to help with job searching and CV writing.

New learners will be following in the footsteps of those on the most recent programme who were rewarded for their success with the presentation of progression certificates.

On receiving his certificate, Daniel, aged 20, said: "The programme has helped me gain the knowledge I need for independent life and career progression.



The on-going support I received from the staff was excellent and also essential for me to progress."

Ashley, 19, added, "The Passport Plus programme helped me gain my independence again and opened new doors for me. Thanks to Passport Plus, I am now in work and building up my career in retail."

Another learner who received a certificate, also called Daniel, is profiled on page 3.



Summer Y-Play participants enjoying a cycle ride at Carsington Water

The summer holidays have started and the children of Y-Play have had a fantastic first time getting 'fit and funky'!

During the first week of the playscheme we made baseball caps, biff-bats, Frisbees and healthy smoothies, and the children also took part in street-dancing, cheerleading and cycle workshops throughout the week.

On Wednesday we took the children to Carsington Water where they participated in Olympic-themed activities and a treasure trail. Some of the children also enjoyed a cycle ride around part of the reservoir.

The first day of every week during the summer playscheme is M.A.D. Monday – which stands for 'Make a Difference'. On the first of these days the children worked hard learning songs and then a small group of them visited Handside Court extra care home to entertain the elderly residents. It was a very beneficial exercise for all those involved.

Amy Allen

A message from the Chief Executive

We all know that the challenges of our daily lives can sometimes be frustrating. Standing back and taking stock can be very helpful. Indeed, without doing this from time to time we can easily get stuck in a rut and lose sight of the wood for the trees.

Many of the young people who come to stay with us at The Campus need a break and the opportunity to reflect and take stock more than anything. They may have endured chaotic or even dangerous situations and dealing with the challenges of everyday life has been all that many of them could cope with. We provide them with a safe haven and, crucially, the opportunity to think and look towards the future. Only by having this space can they discover how to turn over a new chapter in their lives.

In fact, giving service user members an opportunity to take stock and renew their focus is common to every service we provide, albeit in different ways.

For example, learners have often commented that our programmes help them to focus on their future career aspirations when otherwise they might just have had nothing to do, while recipients of emergency packs from the Furniture Project get the space they need to take stock and plan for the future without having to worry about essential items for their home.

The YMCA movement has always taken a holistic approach to the support it provides, and often the freedom to think and set one's mind at ease is just as important as other more physical needs.

This is just another reason why we should all feel confident that the work we are undertaking as a team makes a real difference and why our movement and our mission is so unique.

Gillian Sewell

Campus room hire wins plaudits

A number of local groups and organisations are making regular room bookings at The Campus to take advantage of our state-of-the-art facilities and friendly service. Among them is the Shaw Trust, a charity which supports disabled and disadvantaged people to prepare for work, find jobs and live more independently.

Speaking after one of their sessions, Laura Clare and Janice Collier from the charity explained that there were a number of reasons for using the Campus as their local base for job clubs, training and one-to-one support. The on site parking, excellent access for people with disabilities, competitive price, location and informal atmosphere were among the factors they cited for their regular booking, as well as the Campus Café which they praised for its quality of service.

Janice said, "I hadn't realised quite how comfortable the Campus would be, and we've had no negative responses from any of our customers.



Janice Collier of the Shaw Trust

I would recommend it because of the friendly atmosphere and the fact that everyone is helpful and polite. Our customers feel relaxed here straight away."

Laura said that she was always impressed by how clean and tidy the building was, adding, "I would definitely recommend The Campus because it's clean and modern with excellent facilities."

Well done to the Hospitality and Housekeeping teams for this great endorsement!

Campus Hospitality Service report

We held a successful networking event at the start of August which was well attended by a number of key figures. More of these events will follow.

We are also in the process of re-vitalising both the Café and Buffet menus. Autumn promises to bring lots more room hires and we look forward to developing our relationships with both existing and new customers.

We are also intending to re-launch our match-day parking. Watch this space.

Rachel Bradley

Marketing and Communications

With the new Learning and Development Brochure almost complete, it's now all systems go with this year's Annual Report. It should be ready in September.

There are also a number of projects across our services and localities that require communications support, such as the push to recruit more learners to our programmes and a re-launch of the Furniture Project in Chesterfield – to mention just two. So, it will be a busy few months ahead.

Dominic Baster

Reflection of the month

One of the greatest moments of growth in prayer arrives the day I can, as it were, walk away from my feelings, discount them completely.

People fret because they don't 'feel' God is close, or even that God has 'deserted' them... Being poor in spirit is being happy with this state, happy as a rational creature to surrender oneself trustingly to this hiddenness.

Delia Smith (1941-present)

Reflections of a Campus resident, learner and volunteer

Daniel is a residential member at the Campus in Derby, a successful learner and now a volunteer in the Campus Café. Here he reflects on his experiences.

"I have lived at the Campus for nine months and I love it here. I used to come to the old YMCA building here when I was at school for various activities, but it's now completely different. It's got everything you'd need, including a better lounge and things to do during the day.

"The support staff sort out any problems you might have, and they're always there for you when you need them. They are all friendly and caring. It's a safe and comfortable place to be.

"I used to live in shared accommodation but I needed a helping hand to be able to live independently and that's what I'm getting now. I'm getting help to learn skills like cooking and handling money, and the Passport Plus course in skills for independent living was really helpful.

"I've also gained a Level 2 qualification in 'Food Safety in Catering' and I feel happy to have achieved this – it's the first Level 2 certificate I have ever achieved so it's exciting. When applying for jobs I can now take the certificate to show people.

"I've been volunteering in the Campus Café for a month now and I'm loving it. I'm serving customers and also helping to provide the food. I feel respected as a member of the team and it's really building my confidence up.

"When it gets busy it can be a shock and there's a lot to do. It's quite hard and it tires me out, but I love doing it because it keeps me busy and I also find it rewarding. It's really helping me and I'm confident that it will help me find a job in the



future. It has given me the motivation I need to keep busy rather than staying in bed – and a kick-start to moving on with my life.

"I'd say to anyone in my situation that they should come here because the staff are friendly and you have everything you need.

"I just want my own place after this, and I'm confident that I'll succeed – fingers crossed!"

Photos: Daniel pictured volunteering in the Campus Café (above) and with his Passport Plus certificate (right).



Five-a-side football tournament is hailed a success



This year's Inter-Hostel Football Tournament in Derby was held on 3rd August – the third such event since 2007.

Organised jointly by our own Marc Stevens and Mark Birkett from the Football Association, the five-a-side competition at Shaftsbury Sports Centre brought together nine teams

representing housing associations or providers across the City, including two from YMCA Derbyshire. Over 100 people attended.

Our teams received fantastic support, with Campus residential members cheerleading and chanting on the sidelines. We came joint third in the end, but every participant received a

medal and a great time was had by all.

Following the success of the event, we have now set up football sessions every Wednesday from 3pm to 4pm. The charge will be just £1 per session so that everyone who wants to can attend – including the homeless. The initiative will be facilitated by the 'Just Play' project funded by the FA.



Chesterfield team looks to the future



Members of the Chesterfield team promote our services at the 'Party in the Park'. Left to right: Wendy, Julie, Teresa, Gil, Mark, Carrienne and Helen.

Our team in Chesterfield came together at the start of the month for the annual Party in the Park event (see above). Mark Love, who is now back at work full-time, and other team members manned the stall during the event which showcased the various services and agencies operating in northern Derbyshire. As well as handing out literature and corporate gifts, the team also ran a successful tombola in aid of the Chesterfield Members' Fund.

The Chesterfield team is currently making plans for the future, as Mark explains:

"We need to find a new home because our current landlord wants Field House back. We are able to stay until we find

somewhere that will allow us to maintain the status quo, develop and grow into new adventures. All of us are currently keeping our eyes and ears open in the hope of finding something suitable, and the Furniture Project is looking to re-locate to an exciting new location.

"We are all continuing to work hard, ensuring that the vital services we provide continue without interruption for our service user members. Watch this space in future editions of *Team Brief* for updates."

Finally, our thanks go to Lisa Barlow, who served as acting locality manager in Chesterfield while Mark was away. She now has a new role at Nottinghamshire YMCA and we all wish her all the best.

Raising awareness in Amber Valley & Erewash



The team in Ilkeston has also been promoting its services. The Tenancy Sustainment Service in Amber Valley and Erewash has recently established a service users' committee to help improve the service and raise money for the locality's members' fund.

Earlier this month the team manned a stall on Shipley Park to raise funds. Kelly, a service user herself, came along to lend a hand and helped them raise £95. Well done to all those involved.

InSync drive refreshed

Our drive to achieve the YMCA InSync standards by spring next year is continuing, and new deadlines have now been agreed for the first set of workbooks. Full details are available on our website by clicking on the InSync button on the left-hand side of every page, and everyone is encouraged to get involved.



Julia Hodder, who is coordinating our drive to achieve the standards, said: "We do realise that everyone is extremely busy, but the achievement of the InSync standards is a key strategic priority for our organisation and I feel sure that success in this project will make us all more effective in what we do while also making it easier to demonstrate the very real value of the work we are undertaking."