

Team Brief

Protect
Trust
Hope
Persevere

Showcasing the Hospitality Service



Hospitality learners before the Coffee Morning last month

The Hospitality Service has been going from strength to strength in the few months since the Campus opened its doors. The Café, which is partly run by our dedicated band of Hospitality learners, is busy serving members of staff and the general public every lunchtime, and the number of local organisations and societies hiring rooms for a variety of meetings and events is continuing to grow.

The first Coffee Morning for the local community was held in December and was a great success. The learners put on a great spread of cakes, scones, sandwiches and other delicious snacks. The learners also helped to prepare and serve mince pies, cakes and non-alcoholic mulled wine at the Community Carol Service just before Christmas. In the photo above (from left to right), learner members Zoë, Rebecca and Farrah prepare to serve the tasty drinks and snacks to the Coffee Morning guests.

Promoting the Hospitality Service to local businesses is a key priority for the first part of 2010, with an emphasis on the fact that by using our facilities, customers will be contributing to the support and empowerment of local young people.

Christmas cheer



The residential members' Christmas party was a very enjoyable event this year. Here, sessional support worker Caroline (left) and Social Work student Grace, on a work placement with us, get into the spirit of the occasion.

A message from the CEO

Welcome to the first *Team Brief* of 2010. At the start of a new year, we should look forward with hope and confidence.

Working together as a team, we all achieved a great deal in the course of the last year, and the 12 months ahead provide us with the opportunity to consolidate and build on these achievements.

Take the Campus, for example. I always said that the real work would begin once the building work had been completed. The bricks and mortar are not what the Campus project is about. Rather, what really matters is the work that goes on inside and the people who live, study and work here. The building work may be done, but the work to build a successful centre and provide a better service to our service user members and the wider community is just beginning.

The same is true of our other centres around the county. We are not an organisation made up of buildings, but of people. We are all members of a community, each playing our part to make a difference to those we serve. After all, our bottom line is not the money we raise but the difference we make to those who need our support. We are measured by how dedicatedly we protect them, how sincerely we trust them, how tangibly we hope for them and how faithfully we persevere in our service to them.

The year ahead is, therefore, both a challenge and an opportunity. We cannot stand still, and our success and hard work last year makes me feel sure that together we can make 2010 our most successful year yet!

Gillian Sewell

Supported Housing

Christmas was really good for our residential members, who enjoyed the Christmas Party and other activities organised over the festive period.

Grace, our Social Work student (pictured on the front cover) completes her practice placement at the end of the month, and we wish her good luck in the future. We would also like to welcome Ian and Helen to permanent positions within the support team.

Our work to protect and support our residents is both a challenge and a blessing, and we feel sure that 2010 will see many of them succeeding in their journey towards independent living – a goal that we are all working so hard to help them achieve.

Sue Griffin

Marketing and Communications

The New Year will see further developments on the communications front as we bring the website in-house, work to integrate our marketing and branding strategies across all the offices and produce new brochures, leaflets and posters.

Marketing the Campus Hospitality Service to local businesses will be a key priority, together with establishing a more regular presence in the local media.

Marketing can only be effective in any organisation if all members of the team buy into it. If we're all 'in it together', adopting the brand guidelines and enthusiastically communicating the good news story that we're all part of, then we'll have a truly joined-up communications strategy. Achieving that is the challenge for 2010!

Dominic Baster

Chesterfield Services



The Furniture Project

The past month has been very busy with the Chesterfield Locality being launched as well as essential re-organisation of the office and the Furniture Project to allow for growth and development.

The weather has been against us for the latter part of the month and has limited our service, but all staff members have worked hard to ensure that the young people we support and train have not suffered as a result.

And some more positive news... a very warm welcome to Dave Vickers who joins the team as our new van driver. Dave (pictured above on the left as he unloads another piece of donated furniture with the help of a volunteer) has been with us as an agency staff member for the last three months already and officially kicks off his YMCA Derbyshire employment on the 18th January.

Mark Love

Finance

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to you all for your co-operation in assisting us to meet all our monitoring deadlines on contracts and ensuring that all paperwork is authorised with the correct signatures. This ensures that we comply with all our auditors' and regulators' requirements.

Lesley Edwards

Campus hosts Learning and Development Open Day



Helen Robertson explains our programmes to an interested Open Day visitor

The Campus opened its doors to the public on 8th January for a Learning and Development Open Day. The event was intended to showcase our varied programmes and generate interest among those who might not otherwise have known about the options we offer or our top quality learning facilities.

The event proved to be a good opportunity to draw attention in particular to our new Y-Work programmes in Childcare and Retail, and the Personal Best programme aiming to prepare local people of all ages for volunteer roles at the 2012 Olympic Games.

Steve Finch commented, "The New Year can mean new opportunities and a fresh start for those who face barriers to finding work. Many of the young people who enrol on our programmes have few or no formal qualifications, and often school is something they'd rather forget. Others may be looking for a more practical form of training, or need some extra help with parenting or looking for work.

"We respect all our learners as individuals, and recognise that at the end of the day, it's up to them to grasp this opportunity. We're here to give them all the support and encouragement they need to do just that."



Alan Bloor promotes the Personal Best programme



Information on our Childcare programmes

Crashpads project



Photo: SFI learners in the Crashpads Office after they had finished decorating it

The Crashpads at Devonshire House opened six weeks ago, and to date we have catered for 12 referrals.

As this is a new initiative, there have been a few teething problems, although these have been used in a positive way to help us learn how to improve and develop the service effectively.

Three of our Crashpad residents have moved into the main YMCA Campus after their stay in Devonshire House.

Finally the Crashpads staff team would like to say a big "Thank You" to the SFI staff and learners who did such a brilliant job decorating our office!

Carol Morton

Reflection of the month

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me:
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me.

From the Gaelic poem entitled 'St Patrick's Breastplate', probably written in the 8th century

Time capsule buried at Firs Estate Primary

We have been working with Firs Estate Primary School for some time now and had the opportunity to conclude an Early Years Garden Project with them by burying a time capsule in their school garden.

Pictured below are Year 1 children who helped dig, plant, weed and water what used to be an overgrown, unsightly plot of ground. With the help of STRATA, the construction company that built The Campus, we were able to mirror what happened at The Campus by burying a school time capsule.

The capsule contained pictures, drawings, thoughts and observations prepared by the Year 1 pupils, as well as a class photo. The same children will then dig up the capsule when they reach Year 6 and have the opportunity to compare how their life changed over five years of primary education.

The children had great fun filling the capsule with their work and burying it in the mud, marking the spot with a plaque to keep it safe.

A huge 'thank you' goes to STRATA Construction Limited for their kind donation of plants, trellis, stepping-stones, etc., and of course their time, which has helped to transform the garden totally so that they can interact with and enjoy it for many years to come.

Michael Leake



Residential members had an extra reason to be cheerful over the Christmas period after a local charity for children and young people donated a new pool table for the residents' lounge.

The table, costing £1,000, was donated by Treats, a charity launched by a group of Derbyshire businesswomen 22 years ago to support local children and young people in need. It was presented by Vicky Ashton, Vice-Chair of Treats, who said, "I think YMCA Derbyshire's work to give young people a better chance in life is wonderful. I'm really impressed by the YMCA's new Campus for Learning and Development because it's giving young people a nice environment in which to live and learn, inspiring them to make the most of the opportunities they are being given here. Such an impressive facility will be a great incentive for them to set their sights high."

Photo (from left to right): Residential members Ayesha, Stuart, James and Emily together with Marc Stevens and Vicky Ashton.



Year 1 with teacher Mrs Raynor and Michael Leake



Burying the time capsule



The plaque marks the spot