

Team Brief

Protect
Trust
Hope
Persevere

Telling the Campus story

Those based at The Campus will have noticed a number of photographers, reporters and even a film crew visiting the building over the past month. This is so we can tell the good news story of the Campus project to the wider community. In this photo, Steve Noble gets his 'moment of fame' by being interviewed in the Campus kitchen for a promotional film organised by the East Midlands Development Agency. A fun time was had by all!



Activities: Cable surfing day out



YMCA Derbyshire, Activ8 and Stonham Housing in Long Eaton joined together to provide a fun-filled day of activities for some of our residential members last month at Rother Valley Country Park near Sheffield.

To start the day off we all went on a bike ride around the park's reservoir. Those who were more daring took the difficult route around the mountain bike track. After a picnic by the lakeside at lunchtime, we set off to the cable surfing lake. To start with we all struggled to stay upright – but in the end I think we all managed to get around the lake at least once. To finish the day off we had a giant barbeque provided by the park café. Everyone went home wet, cold and aching from head to toe, but with lots of new friends and memories of a brilliant day.

Marc Stevens

Furniture Project sponsors match



The North Derbyshire Furniture Project sponsored Chesterfield FC's League 2 clash with Macclesfield on 19 September, resulting in a thoroughly satisfactory 4-1 victory for the home side. A good number of people have since got in touch after reading about the Project in the match day programme.

Photo: Team members Wendy Lewis and Mark Love pose with Chesterfield midfielder Paul Harsley before the match.

A message from the CEO

A very warm welcome to October's edition of *Team Brief*. I hope it will provide you with a revealing insight into the breadth of work being undertaken across our services in pursuit of our shared mission to develop the whole person – body, mind and spirit.

The doors of our new Campus for Learning and Development have now been open for over a month, and we can all see how this new facility is making a real difference to our work. However, inevitably with such a bold and innovative project, there have been various teething problems and challenges to overcome.

One of these problems, as we are all aware, has been with modern technology – not just at the Campus but across the organisation. We are moving to a brand new, state-of-the-art IT system which

will prove to be of tremendous benefit to all of us as we move forwards, yet I am well aware that there has been a lot of frustration and even exasperation as all the problems are in the process of being ironed out.

On a personal note, I would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone for continuing to work so effectively during this difficult period. I have seen how we are all pulling together as a team for the benefit of our service user members, for whom 'the show must go on', and this serves to confirm my genuine admiration for all of you.

The problems will be sorted out soon, so please carry on persevering! I hope we can all take heart from the very real difference we are making as a team to the lives of those we serve.

Gillian Sewell

Supported Housing

As we are settling into more of a routine and the initial teething problems occur less often, we are beginning to invite other services to support the work we do. For example, we have the 'Addaction YP' service beginning a drop-in service from the 5th October offering one-to-one support and group acupuncture to residential members who have, or have had, an issue with substance misuse.

Melanie Lord has left us for pastures new. She is now an accommodation officer for the Youth Offending Team, so good luck Mel.

I would like to extend special thoughts to members of the Supported Housing team who are going through tough times themselves, and offer ongoing love and support. You know who you are... stay strong.

Sue Griffin

Marketing and Communications

Everyone in the team has now received our new branding guidelines, and also a poster to display with our shared vision, mission and values. Promoting and living our values is a key priority, so thank you for taking these on board.

Our refreshed visual identity, which is intended to emphasise how our values underpin everything we do, is now being used for flyers, posters and other resources. It's important that we all use the same visual style, so do let me know if you need to produce any promotional literature and I can advise on how to go about it.

Dominic Baster

Annual Regional Awards



The YMCA Annual Regional Awards event will take place in Leicester on 10th November. Nominations are requested for the following awards before the deadline of 30th October: Youth Achievement Award; Adult Achievement Award; International Development Award; Volunteer of the Year Award; Youth Involvement Project Award; Outstanding Service Award.

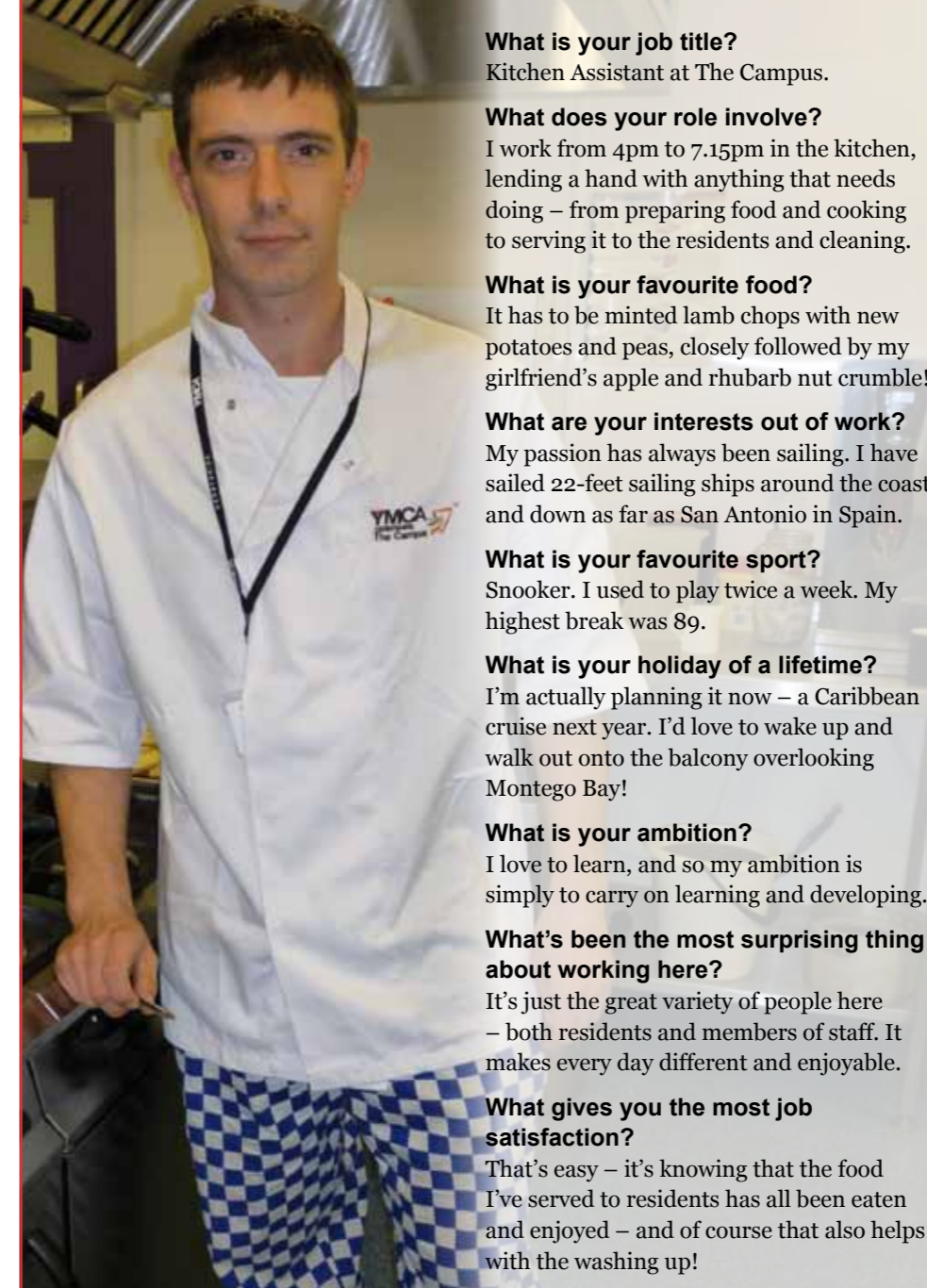
Further information is available by going to the following link on our website:

www.ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/awards.pdf

YMCA Fact File No.4

- The Midlands Region consists of 16 member YMCAs from Derby and Nottingham down to Milton Keynes. It is one of nine YMCA regions across England.
- Based in the Czech Republic, the European Alliance of YMCAs is an umbrella body of national YMCA movements in Europe. It has approximately 30 members, along with 10 other co-operating movements. The President of its Executive Board is currently Peter Posner, who is also on our own Board of Trustees.

Focus on... Paul Osbourne



What is your job title?

Kitchen Assistant at The Campus.

What does your role involve?

I work from 4pm to 7.15pm in the kitchen, lending a hand with anything that needs doing – from preparing food and cooking to serving it to the residents and cleaning.

What is your favourite food?

It has to be minted lamb chops with new potatoes and peas, closely followed by my girlfriend's apple and rhubarb nut crumble!

What are your interests out of work?

My passion has always been sailing. I have sailed 22-foot sailing ships around the coast and down as far as San Antonio in Spain.

What is your favourite sport?

Snooker. I used to play twice a week. My highest break was 89.

What is your holiday of a lifetime?

I'm actually planning it now – a Caribbean cruise next year. I'd love to wake up and walk out onto the balcony overlooking Montego Bay!

What is your ambition?

I love to learn, and so my ambition is simply to carry on learning and developing.

What's been the most surprising thing about working here?

It's just the great variety of people here – both residents and members of staff. It makes every day different and enjoyable.

What gives you the most job satisfaction?

That's easy – it's knowing that the food I've served to residents has all been eaten and enjoyed – and of course that also helps with the washing up!

Fundraising

From time to time funding opportunities present themselves and YMCA Derbyshire needs to make the most of them. If you hear about a funding opportunity and think that it would be suitable for a YMCA project, we need to co-ordinate the approach.

Firstly get as much information as you can about the opportunity and then talk to your line manager about your ideas. If the application is for less than £3,000 all you need to do is contact Generate so that we can double-check that the YMCA has not already applied to this fund. Then you can get cracking with the application. If the application is for over £3,000, Generate will work with YMCA Derbyshire to secure the funding. For further information, contact us on 01332 366050.

Vicky, Katy and Grace – 'the Generate Team'



Hospitality Service

The Hospitality Service is starting to flourish, so thank you all for the help and support!

I'd like to welcome Brian into the kitchen, who is being a great help. The Café is taking a regular trade and we hope to extend the opening hours soon to include evenings and weekends.

We are pleased to see stakeholders such as Derby City Council, the NHS, Derby Live and YMCA England utilising our meeting rooms. Residential cookery courses and volunteering opportunities are now available – and Reception is as vibrant as ever. We look forward to an exciting October!

Rachel Bradley

Finance

The East Midlands Development Agency visited us in September to audit the European Regional Development Funding we received for the Campus training and hospitality areas. They were very impressed with how quickly we had everything up and running, with learners having been on site from day two.

Every time we receive new funding we have to investigate the VAT liability to ensure that we stay within the VAT regulations. This can be complicated – did you know, for example, that when you take away cold food from the Café, such as sandwiches or baguettes, we don't have to charge VAT, but that we do have to charge VAT (currently 15%) on all other takeaway food? This is why it is very important to keep good records of the takings.

Lesley Edwards

Children and Young People

We have been busy compiling reports and feedback from an extremely busy and successful Summer programme. We are now aiming to provide holiday activities in more City areas by securing further Disadvantage Subsidy Pathfinder Funding received by certain schools over this next academic year.

We have initiated a Parent & Child After School Sports Club at Bishop Lonsdale Primary School, delivering fun sport/PE sessions aimed at maximum participation and interaction between family members. This is proving to be very popular and next Half Term we will change the topic to First Aid/Health & Safety. This will provide an opportunity for children to learn the essentials and enjoy bandaging up their parents and putting them in the recovery position – great fun combined with a really positive outcome!

Firs Estate Primary School have had the benefit of our services for the past 18 weeks and the Extended Services garden project will conclude with Strata (builders of The Campus) helping the Early Years pupils out by weeding, planting, landscaping and generally improving the small garden area. They will be putting up a trellis and burying a time capsule, mirroring what happened at The Campus. Children have been working on pictures, articles, poems and ideas for what they would like to see buried in their garden with a view to digging the capsule up when they reach Year 6.

Michael Leake



Image: Front cover of the pamphlet promoting October's Y-Play Playscheme at Silverhill Primary School, Mickleover. 2,000 copies are being handed out at local schools.

Crash pads

We will soon be opening 10 new crash pads to reduce reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation – in partnership with Housing Options, Supporting People, Derby City Council's Children and Young people Services, the Youth offending Service, Mansfield Mediation and Derby Homes.

This exciting and innovative multi-agency project will enable 16 and 17-year-olds to be safely accommodated for a 14-day period while they engage in an intensive, targeted mediation, support and guidance programme provided by a range of professionals. The one focussed aim is to prevent youth homelessness.

There will be two avenues within the project. The first, utilising five units in Devonshire House at The Campus, will be for the most vulnerable who have no independent living skills, can live alongside others and need a 24 hour wrap-around support service. The second (using five units spread around the city) will be for those who need their own living space and can live independently with a visiting youth support worker coordinating their intensive support package.

Skills For Independence



The SFI team launched the new Passport to Parenting at the start of October. The aim of the programme, held at our Forman Street centre in Derby, is to develop practical parenting skills, independent living skills and childcare knowledge.

Another new initiative is Passport Plus, for older residential members (25+). It will be a condensed six week programme and will hopefully be launched by the end of the year.

Photo: The SFI team of Lisa Barlow (who is sadly leaving us for a new role this month), Hayley Moran and Sarah Boone.

Reflection of the month

The famous English politician, lawyer, writer and martyr Thomas More (1478–1535) wrote this prayer as a short summary of the graces we need to live a Christian life in this busy, hectic world.

O Lord, give us a mind that is humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words and deeds.

O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of you.

Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation and all dullness in prayer. Give us fervour and delight in thinking of you, your grace, and your tender compassion towards us.

Give us, good Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for. Amen.