

Educational & Training Organisations of up to 50 Staff 2014 Winners ~ NECA Training

NECA Training is a subsidiary of NECA, a North East regional charity working in the area of substance use/misuse. NECA Training was established in 2004 with the purpose to deliver superior training and development programmes to meet all learners' needs. Different methods and resources are used to ensure inclusivity and support NECA's mission "*To promote the prevention, recognition and treatment associated to use and misuse of substances including alcohol, drugs and gambling*".

Several years ago NECA identified a void for clients completing their treatment and decided to develop a training course to act as a stepping stone for the early stages of recovery. The aim was to increase clients self-esteem as well as provide them with an increased knowledge about skills and competencies needed for future employment.

Due to the success of these courses they were able to apply for a contract to run the training for Sheffield Drug and Alcohol

Team. Over the 3 year period they delivered the course in Sheffield, they had trained around 50 Ambassadors with a high percentage of these achieving voluntary and paid employment. The course was then adapted for Durham with a 77% achievement rate and from the 13 learners who commenced, 10 completed and 5 have gone on to gain full employment.



NECA Training, winners of Educational & Training Organisations of up to 50 Staff, with representative from The North East Enterprise Trust, category sponsor



equality north east

Room G~2, Gateshead College, Construction Centre,
8th Avenue Kingsway South, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0JL
tel: 0191 426 4399 email: info@equality-ne.co.uk www.equality-ne.co.uk

NORTH EAST EQUALITY



On completion of the programme, the Ambassadors undertake a voluntary placement with NECA within Durham Drug Treatment Services. The training has been designed to provide the Ambassadors with the skills to aid their personal development and to act as "Recovery Champions" for the treatment system and for the Recovery journey.

The Ambassador scheme is currently being considered as part of the JIVE project, a European Initiative that has the potential to bring international recognition to the scheme and provide help to further improve what they can offer learners. They have also been recognised for their contribution working with the critical pathways team by Durham police POP (Problem Orientated Partnership) awards and were joint winners.

The training provided has had a major positive impact on the lives of people recovering from substance misuse issues. It has given them the confidence to continue on to achieve qualifications - sometimes this is the first certificate the person has achieved in their lives. NECA find that once the individual has completed one course, they have the confidence to go on to do others. They start to build themselves a portfolio to assist them in gaining employment and giving them the confidence to move into further education.

NECA have a strong track record in progressing learners into further learning

opportunities. They also noticed that there was a lack of under-represented groups in their programmes and then further enhanced the provision to a wider range of individuals by establishing strong links with key organisations that work with 'the hard to reach' individuals. This includes linking in with BME organisations and other ethnic groups such as the Jewish Community and Traveller community.

Equality and Diversity is embedded throughout everything they do. One of the keys to their success is the non-judgmental, caring attitude of the staff they employ. All staff provide high level and flexible 1-1 support to learners where needed to help individuals who may not otherwise be able to achieve, reach their goals. Equality and Diversity policies are endorsed at the highest level and well publicised throughout the business.

Not only does the training offer comprehensive support for learners by enhancing self-esteem, confidence and prospects for employment and self-reliance, 50% of trained Ambassadors have gained employment, a fantastic outcome"

For more information about the North East Equality Awards, please visit our website, www.equality-ne.co.uk/awards or contact Equality North East on 0191 426 4399 or email info@equality-ne.co.uk.

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