

MARCH 2011



## Welcome...



Will Nixon

For our first issue of PM news for 2011, I am extremely pleased to be able to start the edition with our recent OFSTED results.

The report produced after our week long inspection in late January is a real endorsement of all the excellent work that is put in by everyone at PM Training – both staff and learners alike. A copy of the full report is available on both the PM Training and OFSTED websites.

Enjoy catching up on our latest news,  
**Will Nixon** - Chief Executive

## OFSTED report a new high...

**PM Training is celebrating after more than 90 per cent of the social enterprise was assessed as 'outstanding' or 'good' in an excellent Ofsted report.**

PM Training – part of the Aspire Group – helps tackle worklessness among young people and provides training and employment opportunities for more than 1,000 people a year, around 200 of whom are apprentices.

The inspection was carried out in January and the glowing report was published on Friday 4 March. Highlights include four areas of PM Training that were judged to be 'outstanding':

- ▶▶ How well do learners make a positive contribution to the community?
- ▶▶ How well partnerships with schools, employers, community groups and others lead to benefits to learners?
- ▶▶ How effective are the care, guidance and support learners receive in helping them to achieve?
- ▶▶ How efficiently and effectively does the provider use its available resources to secure value for money?

The full Ofsted report is published on our website at <http://www.pmtraining.org.uk/about-us/performance/>

## Overview

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# David Wilson Homes North West....

## Continues Apprenticeship Scheme

Space to live.

David Wilson Homes

Our space, your place



**The apprenticeship scheme, which is in partnership with Staffordshire-based training provider, PM Training, offers two year placements in a selection of construction trades, and is specifically designed to give students the chance to gain first-hand work experience in a real-life working environment.**

Graham Swann, Managing Director at David Wilson Homes North West, comments: "We are delighted to welcome Joshua to our team. At David Wilson Homes North West we are committed to helping young people in the area develop their skills and providing them with the experience and knowledge of working in the construction sector.

*"Work experience is a vital part of any career, and it's fantastic that*

*we can provide young people with the skills needed to continue in the building industry and help it grow over the coming years."*

*"Joshua joins our apprentice bricklayer Jamie Hughes on a new development in Newcastle-Under-Lyme, named Heritage Park. We're so pleased we're able to offer young people in the area help build their own local community."*

The scheme will provide apprentices with the opportunity to help build both new homes for open market sale and affordable homes for rent and shared ownership through PM Training's sister company, Aspire Housing. A total of 75 homes will be available for affordable rent or shared ownership.

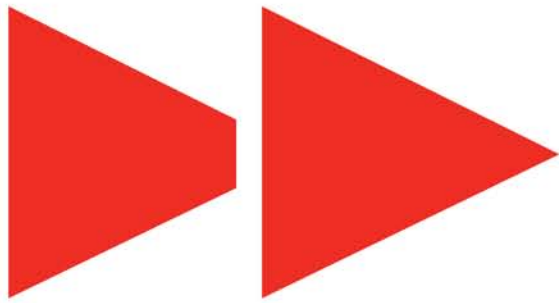
Will Nixon, chief executive at PM Training, comments: "We are extremely pleased to be working in partnership with David Wilson Homes North West to help the local

*apprentices gain the relevant skills needed to become fully qualified in their chosen trade. We hope the scheme will create opportunities for young people in the construction industry and support them in their future career."*

Graham Swann concludes: "We hope this scheme strengthens employment opportunities for young people, and we look forward to working with apprentices in the future."

To find out more about how to secure an apprenticeship, please contact PM Training on **01782 279121**.

For further information on the new homes available at Heritage Park please call **0844 8113366** or visit **www.dwh.co.uk**



## Safeguarding...

PM Training has a legal duty to work with other agencies in protecting young people from "significant harm" and responding to possible child abuse. These duties relate to all children and young people aged under 18.

Our staff seek to adopt an open and accepting attitude towards all young people as part of our general responsibility for pastoral care. We work hard to ensure that parents and young people will feel free to talk about any concerns or worries which may affect educational progress, and that they will see PM Training as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home. Young people will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff.

All PM Training staff undergo "Safeguarding Children" training and refresher training at a minimum of every 3 years. Designated persons attend relevant training every 2 years.

If you employ a 16-18 year old apprentice from PM Training, a member of our staff will have explained your responsibilities in relation to Safeguarding. If you are unclear as to these responsibilities or have any questions or concerns relating to Safeguarding, please contact us immediately.



### Are you on Facebook?

Visit PM Training and become a friend to keep updated with the latest happenings from us.



## Microteach Madness at PM!

All teaching and assessment staff at PM Training continually update their professional development and in November 2010 ten colleagues embarked upon the Preparing to Teach in the Life Long Learning Sector course delivered by Bill Harvey from NCA Enterprises Ltd.

The course required each member of staff to design and deliver a 'microteach' session to their peers. The wide variety of sessions delivered included: Alcohol Intoxication, Watercolour Painting, Stihl Strimmer Use, Making a Cup of Coffee, The Selkirk Grace, Cupcake Couture, Preparing and Using Filler, Cutting in Paintwork, Edible Food Art and How to Wire a Plug!

The success of all ten students completing the course reflected the great deal of hard work and commitment put in by each and every member of staff.

Congratulations to (left to right): Wayne Rowley, Billy Welsh, Matt Crowe, Mike Canavan, Carl Roberts, Nikki Brough, Liz Myatt, Gavin Waine, John Adams and Julie Hallam, shown ready to decorate cupcakes in their pinny's!

# Apprenticeships top of the agenda during National Week



## PM Training used National Apprenticeship Week to showcase the value of apprenticeships to schools and businesses across Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire.

And dozens of additional apprentices are expected to be taken on in the region after Newcastle Borough Council urged its supplier companies to hire more PM Training apprentices during a major partnership event as part of the week.

National Apprenticeship Week, which ran from Monday 7 to Friday 11 February, saw PM Training speak to hundreds of students and dozens of local businesses about the benefits of apprenticeships.

Local schools, such as Mitchell High School, Berry Hill High School and Birches Head High School, visited PM Training so students could get hands on during some practical workshops, such as painting and decorating, engineering, building services and business administration.

Open evenings for prospective learners and their parents were also being held as well as an awards evening for top-performing apprentices

Will Nixon, PM Training's chief executive, said: "Apprenticeships are more than just learning a trade, they're about becoming work-ready and gaining practical experience so that you know exactly what is required of you when you start work."

"They are an ideal way for young people to prepare for employment and we used National Apprenticeship Week to raise their profile as a viable alternative to other forms of training."

PM Training also targeted businesses directly during the national awareness week, inviting local firms to visit them for 'breakfast briefings', to find out how taking on apprentices can boost the workplace.

A final business link-up rounded off the week when PM Training met up with Newcastle Borough Council and dozens of businesses in its supply chain, to outline how

employers can support young people into employment through training and work experience.

Will added: "For businesses, taking on apprentices is a great opportunity to employ work-ready, skilled and enthusiastic young people."

"This in turn can energise the existing workforce and help other employees to develop, as they can take on mentoring roles at work."

"In addition, PM Training can provide all the HR support employers need to make the scheme work for them."

As a training provider, PM Training's track record of progression rates onto apprenticeship schemes is the highest in Staffordshire and among the highest in the UK for a social enterprise organisation. Around 70% of trainees positively progress through its skills programmes and 95% of these go onto full-time apprenticeships.

For more information on how to recruit a PM Training apprentice visit [www.pmtraining.org.uk](http://www.pmtraining.org.uk) or call (01782) 279121.



## Newcastle supplier event success at Keele

In February Newcastle Borough Council joined forces with PM Training at Keele Hall to encourage their suppliers to take on local young people as apprentices. Dozens of local companies heard about the benefits of employing an apprentice, including the positive difference it can make to their business and to the local economy.

Chris Windass, Director at George Birchall Services Ltd, explained how Birchalls, whose head office is in the Borough, has benefitted as a business and gained more understanding about corporate social responsibility. But the high point of the event was hearing from two young apprentices, Alice Reynolds and Liam Nicholls, who are being supported through their apprenticeships by PM Training. Alice and Liam bravely stood in front of an audience of over 100 people and talked about the difference an apprenticeship has made to their lives. Business managers were impressed and moved both by their honesty and their enthusiasm.

Participants also heard that Realise grants could be available to companies who haven't employed an apprentice before. Hopefully this will encourage them to take the first step. For further information about how an apprentice can benefit your business please contact Steve Rushton, Head of Partnerships on **(01782) 279121**.

PM Training will be holding similar supplier events with Staffordshire County Council in May and October of this year. Should you be interested in attending a future event please contact Katie French **[kfrench@aspirehousing.co.uk](mailto:kfrench@aspirehousing.co.uk)**.

### Funded Training Available

**Do you have members of your workforce that would benefit from being trained or up-skilled?**

As a valued customer we are offering fully-funded training with PM Training, for a limited period, meaning there is no cost to your company.

Training is available in the following areas:

- ▶▶ Warehouse, storage and distribution
- ▶▶ Engineering
- ▶▶ Gardening and horticulture
- ▶▶ Team leading
- ▶▶ Management
- ▶▶ Manufacturing
- ▶▶ Glazing
- ▶▶ Business administration
- ▶▶ Customer services
- ▶▶ Painting and decorating

Working with PM Training to deliver your workforce development needs couldn't be easier. Simply contact Mike Canavan on **(01782) 279121** or alternatively email **[mike@pmtraining.org.uk](mailto:mike@pmtraining.org.uk)** to take advantage of this offer.





HEALTH WORK WELLBEING

## North Staffordshire Fit for Work Service (FfWS)

Free workshops and training for managers on effective absence management and other absence related topics including the new Fit Notes are available for all employers with staff who live or work within North Staffordshire. The FfWS can provide tailored Absence Management Solutions and help with policy design and implementation.

The FfWS can offer free support to employers and their employees, including free health assessments, counselling, musculoskeletal assessments, training and 1:1 support.

To access the service, please contact Sarah Rogers or Gemma Adams (Employment and Skills Advisers) on **0300 123 0997**.



## Do you employ apprentices? Apprenticeships

**A new scheme has been launched by the National Apprenticeship Service to recognise businesses who employ apprentices.**

The Apprenticeship employers badge can be displayed by businesses on their websites and other materials such as letterheads and stationery, to highlight their commitment to Apprenticeships. In return, their logos will then be displayed on the Apprenticeships website.

The scheme has been developed in response to consumer demand. Recent research, commissioned by the National Apprenticeship Service, showed that 64%

of consumers would use a register enabling them to choose a business that hires apprentices and over 80% of people are more likely to use a business if it offers Apprenticeships to young people.

If you employ apprentices you can start using the employers badge today. Simply visit [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) to download the badge and then contact the National Apprenticeship Service to get your company logo added to the Apprenticeship website and employer register.