



CASE STUDY:

All in a day's work

Employment and training are some of the most important programmes we provide, giving people the skills and confidence to find a job. These programmes are important to housing associations, as it's estimated that around 41% of working age housing association tenants are in receipt of benefits. They also allow people to break the poverty cycle and use social housing as a springboard to improve their life.

Our employment and training programmes are providing practical skills and experience to people in east London and Essex, along with opportunities for local employment and work placements. In spite of the recession, we have enjoyed one of our most successful years to date in helping 234 unemployed people in east London and Essex find a job, **which equates to almost a job for every working day.**

This was achieved through our comprehensive range of support and short courses to help prepare people for the workplace. The courses cover skills in IT, presenting, communications, group working and CV development. We also provided professional help for people to apply for work and prepare for interviews, along with opportunities to gain work experience through local employers.

A key ingredient to our success involved working in partnership with employment agencies and businesses. Working with Bovis Lend Lease, we created 50 apprenticeship opportunities on the Olympic site over the last four years. A close partnership with Newham Council's Workplace

initiative and Westfield Stratford City has given our residents first access to 8000+ upcoming jobs at the new shopping centre. We are also working with our construction partners on the Ocean Estate to secure local employment and apprenticeships.

The services offered at our Workplace Hub, which we deliver on behalf of Newham Council, have also been instrumental in finding jobs for local people. This dedicated neighbourhood employment hub in Winsor Park covers everything from job searches to training courses and a job broker to link candidates with local employers. The hub has engaged with over 400 people and assisted an impressive 95 people into employment since opening in July 2010.

so what?
We helped **234** unemployed people get a job last year.

Supported employment

Most people with support needs struggle to find the confidence to pursue employment due to a lack of available training, support and employers willing to take them on.

We have been helping residents in our care and support schemes to improve their chances of gaining employment and to take part in supported work experience. In December last year we held an employment fair for our residents with learning disabilities. Over 100 people turned up to talk to local employers such as London City Airport and Westfield about job and training opportunities.

We are also running a supported employment programme called Work Ready which provides eight supported residents with training and a work placement at our offices or care schemes. The roles cover areas like catering, cleaning, post room management and support work in our schemes.

“ Craig is an East Thames resident who came to know about our construction training course through the Newham Workplace Hub. The course gave him the skills training, on-the-job experience and qualifications to secure an apprenticeship and land a job on a construction site.

Craig said: “Construct your Career offered me much more than a training course. I wanted to learn a trade. The way the course challenges you to demonstrate your learning in competition with other graduates, you soon learn very fast. Starting work experience on the Olympic site in Stratford is a great moment for me. It is my first stepping stone to my ideal construction job, a real chance to show my ability and I also feel a part of history.”

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“ Having the right opportunities is key to helping people get a job and turn their lives around. I am very proud of the team’s efforts to engage with more people than ever this year. This success breaks our record for the number of people we’ve helped into employment. It is one of the best results ever achieved by a housing association.”

- John Bryson, East Thames employment programmes manager

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Supported resident Jimmy gained a work placement at East Thames’ head office.