

Raising Skills and Employability through Building Futures



There are currently over 2 million unemployed adults in the UK and at the same time the construction industry needs another 85,000 skilled workers every year to keep pace with the next decade's demands.

Many UK communities remain deprived of the employment opportunities and development programmes required to put jobs and skills in place. This ultimately impacts private businesses through an unskilled and declining employee base. Transforming this situation is at the heart of the Government's agenda.

In 2005 Wates Group added their support to this agenda by launching a pioneering return to work / training programme called Building Futures.

What is Building Futures?

Building Futures is a 1 or 2 week AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance) accredited vocational training programme. It is aimed at long term unemployed adults all of whom are disadvantaged in finding work. It provides soft skills training and practical training as well as a valuable insight into the construction industry.

The primary objectives of the programme are:

- To provide the skills to make the transition between unemployment and employment
- To encourage those facing barriers to employment to secure full time employment
- To provide the standard entry training necessary to address the skills shortage within the construction industry
- To showcase the construction industry as an employment route

Since October 2005 we have delivered 44 programmes nationwide, some of which have been in the following regions: London, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Newport, Plymouth, Newcastle and Leeds.

Above all, it's about people



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Programme Content

- Personal development such as confidence building, team-work, behavioural skills, skills assessment and IT awareness
- Return to work guidance on CV preparation, job search and interviewing skills
- Industry awareness by undertaking construction site visits
- Attending trade tester sessions in various trades
- Health and Safety training leading to completion of the industry standard CSCS test
- Study towards achieving a First Aid at Work Certificate

Upon completion of the programme all delegates will attend a presentation ceremony to receive a certificate of achievement.

Success So Far

- 501 people have participated in the programme
- 100% of delegates have been put forward by Wates for the CSCS Health and Safety Test
- Over 50% have moved into employment, education or further training as a direct result



Kyla had no experience of the construction industry when she joined her local Building Futures programme. She was talented spotted and employed by Wates as a Resident Liaison Officer.

“.. No two days are ever the same and I work really hard. I've build up such good relationships with the residents and the trades people that I cant go anywhere without bumping into someone for a chat!..”



Paul Phelan was unemployed but had previous plastering experience. He was employed by Wates after successfully completing Building Futures

“.. I have gained a lot more confidence since going on the programme and in particular I found the interviewing and teambuilding skills beneficial..”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BUILDING FUTURES PROJECT MANAGER

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