

Energize Newsletter

September '08 to March 09 Issue 6

Angling4Success

Since the last newsletter, the Angling4Success course has had many exciting developments and growing interest from schools in Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. We now have fishing groups going out 4 days a week!

With the help of a Children in Need grant, we were able to appoint Matt Lee as a full time angling coach from January, and have the Energize van sign written with logos and photographs from the course. As a result of the grant, Energize was featured on Look East in November as part of the build up to the Children in Need appeal, to show the public how their money was spent last year. The BBC filmed a group of young people at Tingrith Fishery, and The Raptor Foundation brought along some of their birds of prey to give a taster of how 'Falconry 4 Success', a new aspect of the course, can benefit the young people as well. The video can be viewed on the Energize homepage at: www.energize-solutions.co.uk



This means they have been able to coach middle school students in the same situation, through the basics of angling and photography, thereby creating a perpetual mentoring framework.

The reports from school have been positive too; "[named young person] has had trouble at home, finds it difficult to communicate with people and was always a shy child with low self esteem ...That was in the past, they have blossomed into a more confident young person who is looking forward to the future."

Don't forget! All photographs taken by participants can be viewed at: www.flickr.com/energizeimages

Gary Richardson takes on new role within Energize

Gary has stepped down as Director of the Company and Charity to concentrate on developing new projects.

He will continue to be employed by Energize and will be heavily involved with Angling4success as it develops around the region.

Gary will be available to mentor people who are looking to set up new projects or who are looking for innovative new ideas for existing projects...

Please email him on gary@energize-solutions.co.uk to discuss your requirement...



One group of young people who have particularly benefited from the course are Sam, Tyler, Jake and Gemma. All 4 came to us from middle school, in a position of disengagement from mainstream education and needing the boost of confidence they gained by learning skills in a different environment. Matt Lee taught the group 4 different angling techniques and they each created a portfolio of photographs to record their experiences, and the natural setting of the lakes. The 6 week course was completed with good results and an overall positive attitude, so as the group moved up to John Bunyan they were invited back to complete the follow-on peer mentoring course.

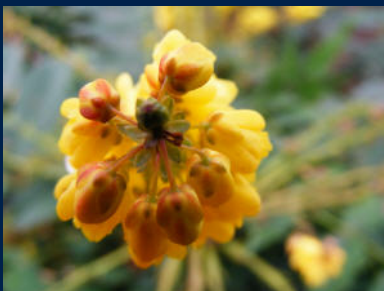
Energize Newsletter

September '08 to March 09 Issue 6

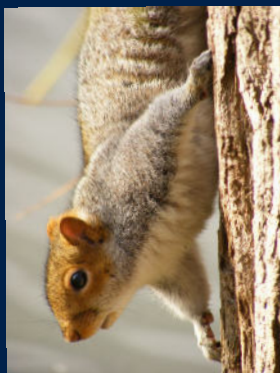
SafeSpace Mentoring Skills for Jobs

During her mentoring sessions with Rachel, Emma has been developing her photography skills by taking pictures around Bedford town centre and of nature by the river. Some of these pictures have been so impressive, that she is now preparing for an exhibition to display the photographs at her school.

If you are interested in going along, it will take place in the main entrance at Biddenham Upper on Wednesday 28th April. Please speak to Rachel Knowles for more details.



Some of Emma's photographs.



The Skills for Jobs programme launched with our first clients in November last year. Skills for Jobs provides training and support for those who are unemployed or economically inactive in their journey to rejoin the world of work. The course runs over 3 months with a training component designed to the learners particular needs, a career guidance interview, and then active assistance to identify suitable vacancies, both voluntary and paid, and individual support through the application and interview process.

The skills that we have looked at so far have included life planning, objective setting, confidence building by identifying an individual's strengths, CV writing, communication skills and behaviour management. It is great to note that of our first group two thirds are now enjoying voluntary work placements. The second group is just reaching the end of their training and we are starting to speed up the job hunting process, our aim being to get more than half into work.

Matrix Accreditation

The Matrix Standard is the national quality standard for any organisation that delivers information, advice and/or guidance on learning and work, and Energize is committed to achieving this standard. It consists of eight elements, four focused on how you deliver your service and four focused on how you manage your service.

By going through this accreditation process we have an opportunity to review all of our policies, procedures, and working practices to ensure that they meet the day to day needs of the training that we offer, both for now, and, by building in review and feedback processes, in the future.

Youth Achievement Award

Curtis has gained a bronze Youth Achievement award for sports, and Shannon has recently submitted her work in photography, crafts and cooking for a bronze certificate. Curtis is hoping to study carpentry at college in the near future, so in preparation he is working on making a coffee table during his mentoring sessions with Rob. Hannah, another mentoree, has recently been accepted into North Hertfordshire college where she is hoping to train in hairdressing. Leeann is now going to be spending her mentoring sessions working with ponies to build her confidence and self esteem.

Energize Newsletter

September '08 to March 09 Issue 6

Adult NLDC

Since the last newsletter, Matt Peacock has been working on various new projects including a fishing and photography course accredited to OCN level 2, which was funded by N.L.D.C (neighbourhood learning in deprived communities). 10 adults took part in the course, 3 of whom are going on to the Skills for Jobs programme which is a great success. As part of this funding, we have also been able to set up an outdoor learning environment at the Energize office, with a gazebo, benches, and an outdoor whiteboard.



Due to the target group of the project we are always looking for new ways to make the learning experience enjoyable and engaging. As many of them have had negative experiences of learning and find learning difficult, we wanted to create an outdoor space where learning can be creative, informal and non-threatening.

Matt has also finished the pre-entry course in 4 community groups, which involved people in animation and photography, and working on their employability skills. According to Matt, both courses went well and it was positive to see people grow in confidence in themselves and the activity in hand.

We have 3 projects planned for the future with Bedfordshire County Council; a young enterprise course involving NEET (not in employment, education or training) young people, another project for NEET young people aged 14-19, and a graduate employability course at the University of Bedfordshire.

The PEP Course

Keith Williams has recently completed delivery of another successful PEP course, with hopefully all 7 participants achieving their certificates.

He has also been working as the Chief Examiner of the APM Group on the Change Management panel, leading development of a practitioner course and exam.

As part of his work with Spirals, Keith is working on a Strategic Highways Maintenance review for East Sussex County Council. From March 1st he was appointed as Director of Change at STFC (Science and Technology Facilities Council) to work part time leading a blueprint transformation programme.

Stepping Stones

This is a programme to provide Skills for Life training at pre-entry to entry level 3 embedded in action learning (music, art, sport, media etc), to stimulate interest and engage employees in higher levels of achievement and progression into learning. It is aimed at those who are unwaged or full/part time employees of voluntary/community organisations, with an emphasis on those who have had difficulty in engaging in formal education.

We are working towards a launch of this programme in May, and are at present laying the foundations for a successful programme, by approaching employers with employees that could benefit from this programme, designing training content and identifying the resources that will be needed.

Energize Newsletter

September '08 to March 09 **Issue 6**

Staff News

We want to congratulate Pete Barras on his new post as a Senior Parenting Advisor with Social Services and we wish him well in this. We were very grateful to Jenny Bibby for stepping up to do mentoring admin until the end of last year. Since then, our new mentor Rachel has taken over this post. Rachel Knowles and Catherine Howes began mentoring on the Safespace programme at the end of last year and have been successfully working on a one to one basis with young people since then. Nathan Clements and Sarah Adams have recently resigned from their posts as Safespace Mentors, as Nathan is taking up full time employment with the Bedfordshire Youth Offending Team, and Sarah is hoping to go on to new things. We were sad to see them go, but wish them all the best in the future!

It was great to have Sue Williams working with Joy Jones, providing family support in Bedfordshire schools during the autumn term.

Keith has recently employed Kayte Judge to offer information, advice and guidance to people taking part in courses run by Energize, such as Skills for Jobs. Matthew Lee joined us in January, and has since been delivering angling coaching to groups of young people up to 4 days a week.

Tracy Tookey is still ably managing the charity administration, and has now been tasked with helping Energize to achieve the PQASSO quality assurance standard.

If there is anything you would like to see more of, or if you have any new suggestions for the newsletter please speak to Laura or Anne!