

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

14 May 2008

Learners get extra resources thanks to Connexions grant

A successful bid to a local grant fund has this month allowed the purchase of useful resources for Entry to Employment¹ trainees at a city centre training agency.

ENTA (Employment Needs Training Agency²) has recently been awarded £500 from Birmingham & Solihull Connexions Service's Small Grants Fund to purchase resources for learners at the Agency's central Birmingham training centre. The Small Grants Fund is a pot of money set aside for voluntary and community organisations who work with young people, to assist them in reducing barriers to engaging in learning.

This grant will allow ENTA to purchase a variety of additional IT resources - such as Driving Skills training CDs to help learners on the route to passing their driving test. (Driving Theory is part of the Personal and Social Development element of the Entry to Employment programme).

Judy Tullett, ENTA Operations Manager explained "We are training young people for the world of work where they will need a range of personal and professional skills. We find that our trainees respond very well to the online and IT based learning experience in all subjects - it is engaging, dynamic and allows them to progress at their own pace. We are delighted that through this Connexions grant we can offer a wider range of courses to more learners plus practical assistance to help them get ready for the workplace".

All Connexions Small Grant applications are assessed by a youth led panel using a bid assessment form designed by the young people themselves, to decide where the money will be awarded. Organisations must actively involve young people in all aspects of the application and use of funding, and ensure that the use of the grant contributes towards the Every Child Matters outcomes³.

-----Ends-----

Editors Notes

1) The **Entry to Employment (E2E) programme** is for young people aged 16-18 who have struggled with mainstream education and offers Basic Skills, Vocational Skills and Personal & Social Development to move the trainee towards further training, education or employment.

2) **ENTA has been working across Birmingham since 1977 providing learning opportunities, training, information, advice and guidance to help people think about and prepare for paid employment.**

As a Community Interest Company (CIC) ENTA is a not-for-profit organisation working in the community, for the benefit of the community. The work of ENTA fulfils our vision of enabling all people to achieve their potential, no matter what barriers they have faced in education, employment or training.

ENTA has 3 bases in Birmingham City Centre (head office, main training academy and IT training centre) plus 2 bases in the community on the Kingstanding Wyrley Birch Estate (Lakeside Children's and Family Learning Centre and a nearby Community Learning Centre)

3) The **5 key outcomes of the 'Every Child Matters' Framework** are Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution, Achieve Economic Well Being.

Please contact Charlotte Light (PR) for further information, images, interviews or comments.

Tel: 0121 200 1096 / charlottelight@entapeople.com