



# **The Rivers Community Action Group, Castleford**

## **Background**

Located in Castleford, West Yorkshire, The Rivers Community Action Group aims to provide facilities for people, most of whom are unemployed and who do not have access to mainstream facilities.

A number of Groups are organised and run by volunteers:- Healthy Living Group, Walking Group, Coffee Mornings, Homework Group and Teenage Groups.

The delivery of training is welcomed at the Centre which is run by Jill Poole, Community Development and Health Worker. "We are constantly looking for training opportunities that can be delivered at the Centre. This has proved extremely difficult in the past as we are only a small Centre and we generally get ignored. Many of our users are interested in gaining basic skills, but they are unable to travel to mainstream educational establishments."

## **Quiclearn**

Quiclearn has given The Rivers Community Action Group the opportunity to provide basic IT training. Many of its users had never used a computer before, and many new users have been introduced to the Centre for the first time. The "Design your own T-Shirt" programme provided a fun environment – ideal for first timers. Other attractions to the programme include the free t-shirts, also the fact that the programme is not labelled as learning. To date Quiclearn has attracted over 30 individual learners at the Centre.

Sessions are run on a drop-in basis on specified days so that timing is not an issue for those with other commitments.



The Quiclearn facilitator, Denis McGrath built up a good relationship with the Centre. His skills have been passed onto the Centre staff who are now using them to run Quiclearn sessions for the Homework Club. Over 20 kids have designed their own t-shirts using Quiclearn. Many of these kids would not normally have the opportunity to use a computer.

Sarah Bowl who is unemployed had never used a computer before. Normally she spends her days at home. Quiclearn provided her with the incentive to do something different and be rewarded for her efforts. Sarah now helps out at the Centre as a volunteer.

Philip Begley, who is also unemployed, did Quiclearn a few months ago. He now helps the kids in the Homework Club and is learning to be a Computer Technician at Action for Employment in Leeds. "Quiclearn has given me ambition to do something that I really enjoy. Having been unemployed for a while I am now training so that I can find a job working with computers. I thoroughly enjoy helping the kids through the "Design your own T-Shirt" module. My ambition now is to be a Computer Technician. Without Quiclearn I would still be at home wondering what I should be doing next."



*Philip Begley*

“Users have had a real laugh,” said Jill Poole. “We have built up an excellent relationship with the Quiclearn facilitator and his community development approach has been perfect for our environment. The benefits from the programme have been numerous and we are still getting an enormous amount of interest.”

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