

THE HEALTH & CARE SECTOR WORK ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



MARCH'S ACADEMY UPDATE

There are definitely signs of Spring in the air, although it may take a while before we can say that winter is over. What's not over though is the Academy's ability to deliver courses even during times as difficult as these. In fact, we've continued to deliver all of our courses entirely online, showing that we're not slowing down, even for the pandemic in helping our learners to get themselves into careers. That being said and with the easing of lockdown restrictions in sight, the Academy is looking to ramp up our delivery of courses, both online and in-person again by the end of April. If you'd like more information on the return of our face-to-face course, turn over to the next page. Also in this issue, we'll be meeting and getting some insight on what the course has been like from one of our tutor's perspective and how it has affected not only the way they work but their perception of the pandemic in general.



Dates for Your Diary 2021

Courses

- Online 12-Week Course – Starts 23rd March
- Evening Online Course – Starts 25th March
- Online 12-Week Course – Starts 30th March
- Face-to-Face Rapid Course – Starts 12th April

A Return to Face-to-Face...Again!

We didn't expect to be writing another article here about us returning to teaching face-to-face when we originally restarted in the Summer of 2020, and yet, here we are.

With the easing of COVID restrictions surrounding education settings this month, the decision was made to make preparations for Academy courses to start being delivered via face-to-face teaching again in April. This course will be a 2-week rapid course, starting on the 12th of April and running until the 23rd of April. We have been working hard to schedule and restart face to face teaching, giving local learners the choice of completing the Level 1 Introduction to Health and Care course in person or online. Similar to the last time face-to-face teaching resumed, this will be delivered at City College's Brook Street, and will continue to adhere closely to the latest government guidelines surrounding social distancing and hygiene to give our learners peace of mind as well as to keep them safe while they complete their qualification with us. We will, of course, continue to deliver our online courses in a flexible variety of timescales, giving our learners as much freedom and choice on how they can earn their qualification, although they will now have a greater variety to choose from. Our face-to-face courses have always been a success, including the ones that have taken place during the pandemic (see pictures below), in tailoring our support to learners needs, and so we will continue to put our learners first in order to help them to start and develop their new careers, which is something that everyone needs at a time like this!

We still have a bit of time before we start delivering face-to-face courses back out in the wider community in venues outside Peterborough again, although we will be sure to update everyone when we can, so make sure to follow us on our social media and on our website to stay up to date with the latest updates.



Meet the Team - Theresa Cansdale

This month's issue comes with a testimonial from HCSWA's own Tutor Theresa Cansdale. Having been with the Academy for over a year and a half now, we thought it was about time for us to get to know her a bit better. In fact, Theresa has been so kind that she went above and beyond (like she always does) and even wrote about some of her personal experiences that she's had during this pandemic.

Tell us more about your role...

"I teach City & Guilds Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care Level 1 alongside the Care Certificate to adults who are interested in starting a career in adult health and social care. I provide my learners with all knowledge, facts and skills that they need to prepare them to start a career in the sector".

Tell us a bit more about you...

"I have been working in the care sector for nearly 30 years, initially working in childcare. I have found the transition from supporting the childcare sector to adult social care fairly easy because both focus on supporting individual needs."

Tell us one random fact about you...

"I've met royalty! In fact, I once met Prince Phillip on a sewage farm!"

The Difference a Year Has Made!

By HCSWA Tutor Theresa Cansdale

"When I first started working with the Academy in September 2019 I was travelling around the county from Eaton Socon in St Neots, to Wisbech and back to Peterborough delivering the course in the local communities of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

Since the first national lockdown, I have delivered most courses online. At the very beginning, it wasn't just learners getting to grips with online learning, it was a huge learning journey for me too. I am pleased to advise it has been a great success and we have continued to support people from around the county, to gain a qualification and start their new career in the health and social care sector. But now with the promise of lockdown easing and the vaccination programme, I'm hopeful that I will soon be travelling around the County again soon, delivering lessons back in the community face-to-face again."

Don't we all Theresa. Of course, we will continue to stick to government guidelines concerning travelling and teaching, and we are definitely working towards being able to teach out in the community again.



Academy Recap: What's It All About?

The Health and Care Sector Work Academy is an innovation pilot project set up to address the skills shortage within the health and care sector, by working to increase career progression prospects for employees and promote retention for employers, all the while changing the perception of the sector as a whole. We deliver a free City and Guilds qualification: the Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care, and teach the theory behind the Care Certificate across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to eligible learners (those in receipt of a benefit), looking to take the first step on the career ladder in health and care. Our courses are delivered at City College Peterborough and over Microsoft Teams in a variety of time frames to suit our learners, in small groups with a person-centred approach for both face-to-face and online.

What Can We Offer Learners?

- A FREE, recognised qualification
- One to one support from a mentor throughout the course and for up to four months after completing the qualification
- An excellent opportunity to meet and speak with local employers
- Assistance with CV writing, job searching and job applications
- Financial assistance with child/adult care on course days
- Travel costs to and from sessions covered
- Bespoke courses, delivered online or in-person locally to you in small groups

What Can We Offer Employers?

- Support with the recruitment of Level 1 qualified employees with an understanding of the theory behind the Care Certificate
- Refer current staff into us for upskilling through recognised Level 1 and above qualifications as well as apprenticeship opportunities
- The opportunity to get involved in 'Making it Real'; host mock interviews, Q&A sessions and more
- Bespoke training courses responsive to your organisational needs, identified through training needs analysis

Get in Touch



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