

PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE!

**COLLEGE PRAISED FOR WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH COMPLEX DISABILITIES**

9 February 2010

A Government advisor has praised Cambridge Regional College's nationally acclaimed Improving Choice programme for young people with complex disabilities.

The scheme allows the youngsters to follow specialised learning programmes, often involving partnerships between the college and local social training enterprises and charities.

Anna Page, who was on a fact-finding mission for the Rt Hon Anne McGuire MP, Cabinet Office Advisor on Third Sector Innovation, said the work carried out by the College was a good example of personalised learning.



Anna Page, centre, with CRC staff (L to R) Paul Dawson, Paula Spalding, Alison Jakes and David Golding

She visited the College to talk to staff about how they provide specific training and the challenges and opportunities involved in offering a personalised service to help people with disabilities.

David Golding, head of Supportive Education at CRC, said he was delighted that Ms Page had been impressed with the College's training programmes.

"We have worked closely with a number of partners in the community to become one of the leaders in designing and delivering personalised learning packages with learners with complex disabilities," he said. "It was excellent to meet Anna and have the opportunity to tell her about our programmes."

Ms Page said her visit had given her a valuable insight into how personalised inclusive learning programmes were working.

"I am impressed with the way Cambridge Regional College is working with partners to tailor opportunities for learners. The Improving Choice and Employability Programmes are good examples of how well third sector organisations can work together," she said.

"I will pass on information from my visit to Anne McGuire MP, who is developing a series of recommendations focusing on translating the potential of third sector innovation to personalise services into reality, delivering improved education and learning outcomes."

CRC was identified for a visit because of the College's nationally-acclaimed work with community organisations.

Earlier, Ms Page visited the OWL Cafe at Sawston, where CRC runs a catering training programme with the charity Opportunities Without Limits, set up to help people with a disability or disadvantage.

She also spent time at the Rowan Humberstone centre in Cambridge, which provides artistic training and work experience to adults with learning disabilities in partnership with the College.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the Eastern Region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and around 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes.

The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region. It has the largest apprenticeship contract in Cambridgeshire, working with around 400 employers.