

7 December 2011

Press Release

CRC LAUNCHES NEW HOUSING APPRENTICESHIP

A pioneering new Housing apprenticeship for Local Government and Housing Associations is being offered by Cambridge Regional College to fill a skills gap in the sector.

The new apprenticeship will help housing organisations recruit and train their own staff in-house, overseen by CRC assessors. With more than 100 Housing Association sites in Cambridgeshire, the College expects a big take-up of the new programme.

Phil Stittle, CRC's Business Development Manager who is overseeing the new apprenticeship, said it would be a big help to the housing sector.



Phil Stittle, CRC's Business Development Manager

“The apprenticeship was developed by professionals in the sector and launched nationally earlier this year,” said Phil. “Finding the right people to work in housing is not easy and apprenticeships are a solution to the problem. Social landlords worked on developing the apprenticeship scheme in order to create a workforce with relevant skills and a real understanding of the sector.

“These enhanced vocational programmes are specifically designed by the housing sector to help employers attract new people and improve the skills of the existing workforce.”

A survey carried out by the National Housing Federation and the National Apprenticeship Service showed that although 71 per cent of social landlords offered apprenticeships, there was nothing suitable for the day-to-day job of managing and allocating properties or dealing with any problems that arose.

The new apprenticeship programme is available at two levels - Intermediate for those working as Housing Assistants and Housing Maintenance Assistants, and Advanced Level for Housing Officers, Housing Support Officers and Community Support Officers.

The job varies widely – housing apprentices could be assessing housing need in applicants, letting homes, collecting rents, or managing the development of new homes. They will learn about customer services, housing management, lettings and allocation, homelessness and advice, and repairs and maintenance.

“Housing professionals help shape the quality of life for communities. Their activities cover managing properties, community development, supporting housing and hostel accommodation to planning new homes,” said Phil.

For more information contact Phil Stittle on 01223 418778 or email training@camre.ac.uk.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.