

WHATS THE DE4L?

Opportunity Centres, Redevelopment & Enterprise Tour

The latest free tour for Doncaster employers took place on July 21st. The tour looked at some of the 17 recently opened Opportunity Centres, which have been developed as part of the Success Doncaster programme. These centres are a key part of Doncaster's regeneration plans and the drive to reduce the number of people out of work; by supporting skills development at neighbourhood level, inline with local business needs.

The tour was organised as part of the DE4L Network project, which is helping local businesses work with schools and impact on student skills development through enterprise partnership activities. These projects will help to ensure Doncaster's residents and students have greater confidence, improved communication skills and the enthusiasm needed to gain employment locally - driving Doncaster's economic regeneration.

Venue 1: Denaby Opportunity Centre



The tours first venue was Denaby Opportunity Centre where Jim Uttley (Outreach & Engagement Officer) provided tour attendees with a wide of ranging information, including details of the centre's recent success, where individual advice and guidance led to employment for several of the areas residents at the adjacent 'Home Bargains' store. All the Centres advertise vacancies and support people with training, careers information, access to the internet and advice prior to interviews. Once employment is secured support staff are then able to stay in touch with residents to provide longer term support as required.

The group then travelled by coach to Hyde Park Opportunity Centre, where they were greeted by Chris Randall (Senior Customer Advisor) before Darrell Gregoire and Ashley Raywood (Outreach & Engagement Officers) talked about challenges they had overcome and the growth in use of the Centre since its opening (over 700 residents have now accessed the centre). One such challenge is the 30 different languages spoken within the centres catchment area. The Hyde Park Opportunity Centre is supported by staff from other strands of Success Doncaster and external partner organisations e.g. Job Mates / Citizens Advice Bureau / Action Housing. This means the centre can offer specialised advice and guidance to a wide range of people.

Venue 2 – Hyde Park Opportunity Centre



Support goes mobile!



During the tour delegates also visited the Success Doncaster Mobile Opportunity Centre Bus, which covers Hexthorpe and Balby. This bus is linked to Balby Library where core support is provided for the areas but the bus can park up wherever needs are the greatest – even taking support out to residents whilst they are at home!

After a short stay with mobile staff the tours final destination was De Warne Academy at Conisbrough, which has just completed its first year under self governance. Whilst at the school employers listened to a presentation from Rhiannon Vanstone (Vice Principal) highlighting the schools progress as an Academy. Delegates were then treated to a lavish feast provided by the School Catering students (led by catering teacher Graham Ramage).

Michelin Stars at the ready!

