

Gateshead MP's Meet New Euro Trainees

Two local MPs, David Clelland (Tyne Bridge) and Sharon Hodgson (Gateshead East and Washington West) took time out of their busy schedules to drop in at Gateshead Warm Zone's mobile exhibition unit to meet some of their constituents who have secured jobs with the Zone.



MP's David Clelland and Sharon Hodgson with the ESF trainees.

The 10 previously-unemployed local people got the opportunity to work on the project after Gateshead Warm Zone secured almost £200,000 European Social Fund (ESF) specifically to create jobs for unemployed people in Gateshead.

All ten - who have been appointed as either assessors or benefit screeners - are guaranteed a year's training and work experience, whilst also working towards a nationally recognised qualification and real prospects for a permanent job once the training period ends next year.

Tyne Bridge MP David Clelland praised the initiative. "This is a great opportunity for them all" he said. "I'm confident that the training and investment that Gateshead Warm Zone is putting into this scheme will help all the trainees learn more about the world of work and increase their chances of long-term employment in the future."

Trainee, Craig Mason, aged 22, from Bensham explained how he is putting his time with the Warm Zone to good use with.

"This is my first job; no one else would even give me a chance in the past so I'm putting everything into this year to help my future prospects. I'm learning so much all the time and really enjoying the work."

During the next 4 years all 90,000 homes across the Borough will be visited by Assessors in a bid to help local people make real energy savings.

The £23 project is a not-for-profit partnership between Gateshead Council, The Gateshead Housing Company, ScottishPower and National Grid which aims to rescue thousands of people across the Borough from fuel poverty - a condition where householders spend more than 10% of their income just trying to stay warm - improve energy efficiency and benefits take-up.

