

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 09/01/12

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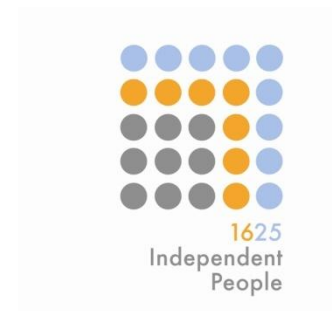
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A marriage made in housing.

1625 Independent People team up with Filton College to solve issues for local young people.

"Getting work experience on real jobs is really hard for young construction apprentices." That is what the Head of Construction Training at Filton College commented to youth homelessness charity Chief Executive, Dom Wood, who replied "Well, we could definitely do with some help with our properties..."

That is how the idea came about for students on Building and Construction Courses at Filton College to take on repair jobs in the charity's properties. Groups of four or five students and their tutor will take on repair and maintenance jobs as part of their course. Also young people housed by Independent People with a tutor will do up their properties as part of an introduction to construction course with Filton College.

Independent People support 16-25 year olds who are homeless by providing housing, support and advice. Any young person they support who is interested in finding out about the courses will be able to sign up for a taster day and join the students on site to get a feel for construction.

In addition to this scheme, the Charity and College are in talks with the local authorities and housing associations with a view to renovating empty properties for use by the charity to house homeless people under the Homes and Communities Agency Empty Homes programme.

Dom Wood said

"This partnership is a brilliant opportunity to help turn a raft of problems into positive outcomes for young people."

George Ridd, Head of Construction at Filton college said that *"this is a wonderful opportunity for our young apprentices to experience working in a fully commercial environment and gain the relevant experience necessary for the completion of their qualifications"*

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Notes to the editor

According to figures provided by www.no-use-emptywest.co.uk, some 1500 homes are empty in Bristol. (Spring 2011)

Please contact Pilar Garcia for photo opportunities and further quotes.

- **1625 Independent People**

Independent People is the leading provider of housing, support and advice to young people aged between 16 and 25 in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

We exist to support young people to build independent lives. We do this by helping people find (and keep) a safe, stable home. We also offer non-judgmental support and advice on counselling, training and help finding jobs. No other organisation in the area has the same wealth of experience and resources.

There are currently up to 300 young people presenting as homeless to the Local Authority each year (Bristol).

For more information please contact **Pilar Garcia, Funding and Communication Officer**

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- **Filton College**

Filton College is one of the fastest growing and most vibrant Colleges within the South West. In February, 2012 the College is due to merge with Stroud College to become South Gloucestershire and Stroud College.

The College provides a vast range of further education full-time courses for over 2500 14-19 year olds in both academic and vocational areas.

Over 10,000 adult learners from within Bristol and South Gloucestershire study part-time courses at the College or at over 50 locations within the community that are delivered by our team of community based tutors.

Nearly 100 international students study at Filton on either English Language training courses or a range of our academic and vocational programmes.

Over the last 3 years, the College has spent nearly £30 million redeveloping its main Filton Campus and to also build a new vocational campus, WISE which specialises in Sports, Visual and Performing Arts. WISE is home to the College's Bristol Academy of Sport, South West Academy of Dramatic Arts and the Bristol School of Art.

The Bristol Construction Academy is growing year on year. It currently has 300 16-18 year old learners and 150 adults studying trade programmes. Filton College have a dedicated £250,000 construction training centre with experienced trainers. Every Bristol Construction Academy learner has access to IT facilities and learning support, which aid the learning process. Courses offered for all Levels and ages, from 16-18 to 18 and above, from Level 1 to Level 3.

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