

'EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT'

Active Dorset County Sports Partnership has teamed up with a host of partners to deliver an inspiring new Sailing project that offered unemployed people the chance to become Sailing instructors.

Sail Laser, the Chesil Trust, the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), Synergy Housing and the Department of Work and Pensions have all been

involved in the project that took place at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy; the venue for the Sailing and Windsurfing at the 2012 Olympics.

Active Dorset provided funding for the first week of training through two schemes; the National Lottery funded Sportivate programme and the coach bursary programme. Synergy Housing and the RYA have funded the instructor training for the successful candidates and equipment costs such as uniforms and waterproof clothing.



accepted onto the programme.

The first week of training took place in April 2013, funded by Sportivate & Active Dorset, offering fifteen candidates the chance to complete their level 1 and 2 qualifications in sailing. Following the initial week-long intensive training course, five of the candidates will be put forward for instructor training, funded by the RYA & Synergy Housing. The five candidates

could get paid work and even travel the world on any of the seven seas!



Sportivate



LOTTERY
FUNDED



SPORT
ENGLAND



“One of the participants said to me that he would just be at home smoking weed if he wasn’t here” said Sail Laser’s Warren Surtees, who chose the participants at focus group meetings in Weymouth Job Centre. “They’ve been really enthusiastic about the project and have been turning up earlier and earlier every day”.

“As Clerk to the Chesil Trust I have put together a package of funding for the project. I’ve had a fantastic response from a wide range of partners, all of whom have been very enthusiastic about the potential for the project” said Tom Grainger from the Chesil Trust. “Seeing the project grow from a concept through to delivery has been very rewarding and when I met the participants on their second day of training it made me realise what a life changing opportunity has been created through the generosity of the many funding and delivery partners”.

Angela Gould, community development officer for Synergy Housing, said: “This has been a great project for Synergy Housing to be involved in. Not only does it give disadvantaged young people the chance to gain skills they can take into



the workplace, it also gives them access to job opportunities in the water sports industry. The way all of them have blossomed in such a short space of time shows just how successful this kind of initiative can be.”

“The project has been a great success so far – every one of the candidates has already enhanced their CV” said Active Dorset’s Senior Sports Development Officer Gary Head. “We’ll continue to review and evaluate the project to check the long term benefits but all of the partners involved have already suggested that they are considering running projects like this again in the future”.



For more information about this project, please contact Gary Head, Senior Sports Development Officer at Active Dorset at ghead@activedorset.org.

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