

supporting the development of individual employers as managers - an information and advice pilot project to help small employers

we want to ask you for your help

The Phoenix Support Group has been awarded short term project funding from Skills for Care to assist 40 individual employers across Yorkshire and the Humber in the development of their knowledge and skills as managers. This help will be additional and complementary to that provided by staff from local authorities, support agencies or other organisations. Outcomes will be evaluated in the summer of 2010 and any recommendations for continuing support will be considered by regional stakeholders.

The objective set for this project by Skills for Care is:

To enable Individual Employers, Individual Budget holders or people considering becoming an Individual Employer, to develop knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Personalisation and its impact on them
- Self Directed Support
- Individual Budgets
- Direct Payments
- Brokerage
- Leadership and Management skills and tools
- People management skills
- The implications of being an employer and local resources for support
- Sign posting to support from Skills for Care and other organisations.

Based on recent action research conducted by Phoenix and its partners in the Humber, we believe that publicly funded training initiatives aimed at raising levels of qualifications in the sector have largely ignored Individual Employers and their staff. The project will, accordingly, focus on access to training as one of its priority areas for action.

The work of the project will be carried out by two experienced independent advisers (Barbara Dalby and Jeff Wheelwright), and volunteer mentors who are themselves managers of their own care budgets. This team will offer both one to one support through home visits and free calls to a telephone helpline.

We would like to ask you to help us by:

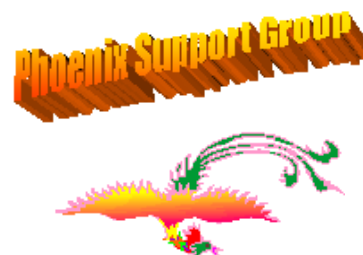
- Forwarding the attached invitation to any Individual Employer (or person considering becoming an Individual Employer) who you think might be interested in participating in the project
- Giving us the benefit of your local experience of working with Individual Employers by suggesting information, knowledge or skills needs which could usefully be addressed by the project – please contact either of our two project workers (see below) with your recommendations.

For more information please contact our project workers:

Barbara Dalby telephone: 07948387737
email: barbara@phoenixsupportgroup.org.uk

Jeff Wheelwright telephone 07875941671
email: jeff@phoenixsupportgroup.org.uk

Thank you for your help.



Supporting Services Users and Carers throughout the East Riding

Yours faithfully
Sharon Terry, Chair, Phoenix Support Group.
Circulation: councils & support organisations in Yorkshire & the Humber