



CASE STUDY

PDS KEY SKILLS PRE AND POST WORKSHOPS

Nationwide | October 2008 to January 2009

Key Features: Partnership Working, Large Organisations, Key Skills Training, Integrated Approach

Partnership Development Solutions (PDS) is a specialist consultancy offering clients a comprehensive portfolio of services to increase performance, production and profitability. PDS work throughout the UK to help employers bring young people into the workforce and assists them in skills development.

In 2006 PDS were looking to deliver a Key Skills qualification to groups of telecoms apprentices working for major companies, improving their problem solving, communication and working with others.

A member of the Totem network of trainers worked with them to develop a 5 day outdoor activity based course run in Snowdonia. After tackling adventurous activities such as abseiling, raft-building and rock climbing together with core skills such as leadership, project management and presentation skills, the course culminates with the launch of a solid fuel rocket to over 1000ft.

After the success of these courses in the winter for 2007/8, PDS saw the need for pre- and post-workshops that buffered the outdoor learning, to help with transfer back into the workplace.

Working with PDS, Totem identified that the learning aims of the workshops should be;

- To provide the participants with an understanding of the qualification they were undertaking
- To provide the participants with the skills to tackle the upcoming project
- To help ease the transition from learning in a classroom environment to outdoor learning

- To ensure the transfer of useful skills back into the workplace
- To ensure that the participants had completed their Key Skills qualification

Having established the aims of the workshop, Totem created two workshop to be delivered before and after the outdoor development course. Based at the organisations offices to reduce disruption to the working day, they revolved around experiential based learning, with participants building catapults, breaking codes and giving presentations at short notice

During the winter of 2008/9, these workshops were delivered to around 120 apprentices across 5 major companies.

TRAINER

The lead trainer for the workshops was Sam Moore. Sam has 12 years of experience in using experiential learning as a medium for development and is an Accredited Practitioner of the Institute for Outdoor Learning.

CONTACT DETAILS

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