

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN WEST GORTON

Keepmoat Homes case studies



West Gorton was a community previously characterised by numerous symptoms of low housing demand, poor health and well-being, low access to education and employment, and significant levels of crime and anti-social activity.

Residents were offered a path to work in construction through a Construction Skills Certification Scheme run in partnership by Keepmoat, the Guinness Partnership and the Mancunian Way charity. The pre-employment scheme included health, safety and environment awareness training and practical skills training in plastering, joinery and tiling.

The candidates were of different ages, from 17 to 50, with some individuals taking on the course whilst facing personal challenges, including unemployment, low confidence and health issues. All applied for apprenticeship places with Guinness Partnerships after the course.

The programme consisted of a variety of workshops and training events, preparing the individuals for work. Training workshops included:

- ▶ Level one award in Health and Safety
- ▶ CSCS mock test
- ▶ CSCS card
- ▶ Site visit
- ▶ Practical skills

Employability skills included

- ▶ Advice and guidance where to get support to help with finding a job or course
- ▶ CV writing skills
- ▶ Applying for jobs and Interview

On completion of the five-week programme, the candidates were invited to interview for any applicable positions available with the Keepmoat Homes and Guinness Partnerships.

Louis, one of the participants applied for a two-year apprenticeship after the course and went on to work at Guinness Partnerships as a full-time joiner, working towards a CITB qualification.

Mark, a participant living in temporary accommodation and on an alcohol rehabilitation programme joined the course as a successful participant and secured a mature apprenticeship in joinery. He has since found a home near his daughter's school, stopped drinking and has been able to look after his daughter again as sole guardian.