

Profile: Able Skills



Able Skills was established in 2003 by Gary Measures and started out as a short-course training centre for the construction industry. In just five years the company now offers a wide variety of opportunities including weekend courses, 10-week programmes and is fully accredited to industry standards.

The training centre at Dartford offers all the facilities needed whether students are plumbing, plastering, painting or bricklaying to name just a few. Over 80 students per week come from all walks of life to learn or improve their trade skills. Whether they have just left school or have perhaps worked in the industry all their life without achieving formal qualifications, there is a course and an opportunity for all.

As a Prince's Trust Mentor, Gary has also been able to help those young people who may have had trouble gaining qualifications and regular work. Gary said: "We're working with a whole range of people in all different areas – training is for everyone whether you're aged 16 or 60."

Gary, who worked in the construction industry for 25 years, set up Able Skills in a bid to get more qualified people into the industry: "There was a shortage of skilled, reliable workers and the training we offer seeks to fill that gap."

People travel from all over Kent and beyond to take advantage of the extensive facilities and opportunities available at Able Skills head office in Dartford and the company also provides training for North West Kent College.

"Dartford is an ideal base for us and we will continue to expand our business in this area. With all the regeneration that is happening not only in Dartford, but in the north Kent region, we want to be a part of that growth and help the workers of Kent make the most out of the opportunities that are available."

Able Skills is an approved training provider and has accreditation to offer qualifications on behalf of: City & Guilds, Construction Awards Alliance (formerly CITB), NICEIC & EAL for Domestic Installer qualifications and Logic Certification for gas training. The quality of the company's training has gained it ISO 9001 certification.

Able Skills is also an approved NVQ assessment centre and are able to assess time served but unqualified individuals on site, in the work place.

Looking to the future, Able Skills is planning to increase its premises at Dartford to offer even more facilities and to also get more involved in the government's 'Train to Gain' programme.

Visit the website for a free DVD and brochure about all Able Skills' training opportunities.

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