

National Accreditation successfully renewed



On 25th May 2010, Derbyshire Probation Trust successfully passed the **Matrix** Quality Standard Assessment, an accreditation it has held since 2007.

The **Matrix** Standard is the national quality standard for any organisation that delivers information, advice and/or guidance on learning and work.

Denise White, Chief Executive of Derbyshire Probation Trust said:

“We are delighted that we have passed our three-year assessment and retained this accreditation. This is testimony to the expertise and commitment of our Education, Training and Employment (ETE) team.

“Providing the best possible support and advice to offenders is often as essential to their rehabilitation as are the courses and other interventions we manage, to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. Gaining employment skills is recognised as having a major impact on helping people become and stay productive members of society.

“The Trust has always supported staff personal development and we believe we have some of the best probation professionals in the country.”

To attain the **Matrix** Standard an organisation must achieve excellent end-results that anyone working or visiting the organisation will consistently hear, see and experience. It is used in a wide variety of organisations such as Higher Education, Prisons, Work based learning providers, Adult and Community Learning providers, Trades Unions, Employers and Careers Advisory Services.

Derbyshire Probation Trust, through its ETE staff, provides offenders with a range of learning opportunities, from basic skills such as literacy and numeracy to more work based skills qualifications such as Health and Safety certificates and even City and Guilds qualifications through partner organisations. The Trust also supports offenders with employment advice such as CV writing and interview techniques.

Staff development has always been a priority of the Trust, with staff encouraged and supported in gaining additional qualifications relevant to their work roles. It runs its own internal Training Unit.