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NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY STAFF CELEBRATING NVQ SUCCESS IN NEW TRAINING SCHEME

More than a dozen staff from the north east's biggest building society are celebrating after successfully completing their NVQ's.

Newcastle Building Society (NBS) worked with Newcastle College to implement the programme across a number of different subjects and levels across a variety of their business area.

The pilot scheme has been so successful that the Newcastle is now looking at how it might be developed to form part of an ongoing plan to include these within future staff training and development.

Four different NVQ subjects were covered by the scheme - Business Administration, Customer Service, Team Leader, and Management ranging from Levels One to Three.

Assessors from Newcastle College monitored the individuals performance across a period of 6 months to ensure that standards were met for each qualification. Work assessments and reviews from line managers were used to provide evidence of progress.

The participants - Sonia Armstrong, Loraine Bambrough, Nicola Madden, Kerry Martin, Veronica Readman, Adam Dalton, Michelle Johnson, Hayley Ward, David Wightman, Mickie Daff, Susan Townsend, Laura Proctor, Craig Ferguson and Diane Page - work across a range of different Society functions and locations.

NBS chief executive Colin Seccombe presented the successful candidates with their new qualifications at a special reception at the Society's principal office, Portland House in central Newcastle.

Susan Redhead, Training and Education Manager at NBS says: "Each NVQ qualification was identified and selected by the individual and the college assessors at the beginning of the course to ensure the qualification subject and level could be linked to the individual's job role".

"Having ongoing outside assessment in place not only gave those taking part a good idea of how they were progressing against their objectives, but it also provided valuable recognition of the quality of the work they do.

"The pilot programme with Newcastle College gave staff the chance to achieve a recognised qualification whilst going about their everyday duties, which is a great way to learn and develop."

Colin Seccombe adds: "The Society's services and successes are based on the abilities and knowledge of our people. We have always placed great emphasis on providing training and development opportunities which will help our staff enhance their existing skills and learn new ones.

"This initial scheme has been both successful in meeting our training objectives and popular with the participants and we're very pleased to recognise their excellent achievements."

Angela Allan, Director of the School of Business and Enterprise at Newcastle College, said: "Newcastle College is very proud to support the training and development of staff at NBS and we are delighted the pilot NVQ programme has been a success".

"Our staff have worked closely with colleagues at NBS throughout the development and delivery of all of the NVQ programmes. We look forward to continued success to ensure the qualifications we deliver really do meet the employer's needs, both for the development of their employees and also their business."

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