

Case Study



- Client:** Various, latterly Homes & Communities Agency, Skills & Knowledge team (formerly the Academy for Sustainable Communities)
2003 - current
- Project:** Leadership & management development for regeneration and place-making
- Background:** In 2006, the Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC) took over responsibility for the delivery of the Raising Our Game programme from RENEW Northwest. The programme had originally been developed by ibp academy under contract from NWDA as a development route for investor support personnel. However, in light of the Egan Review of 2004, a decision was made to adjust the learning to meet the additional needs of regeneration professionals. This development was further built upon when the programme transferred to ASC, with the client group being identified as the wider sustainable communities sector.
- The challenge:** There were a number of challenges, most critically:-
- The cross sectoral nature of the client group
 - The absence of an existing “sustainable communities” leadership qualification
 - The recruitment of facilitators with the required skills and holistic knowledge of the sector
- What happened:** ibp academy worked with a number of stakeholders, including ASC, ILM and RENEW Northwest to develop new qualification routes for the programme. This involved the development of the ILM Level 7 Diploma in Leading Sustainable Communities (senior managers) and the ILM Level 5 Certificate in Managing Sustainable Communities (middle managers). Flexibility was also built in to allow for shorter programmes of learning based on individual units of the awards.
- A national team of workshop deliverers was recruited with a brief to make the programme as developmental as possible. The ambition was not just for participants to gain the qualification, but to actively share knowledge and establish partnerships with new colleagues along the way.
- Groups of learners were recruited in Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Tees Valley, the South West and the South East.
- Regular evaluations took place, under the guidance of ASC, with adjustments and improvements to the programme being undertaken on a regular basis. Short unit based awards were also run eg. Leading Project Implementation.
- ibp academy managed the delivery and accreditation process across England.
- Results:** Over 250 learners have achieved one of the programme qualifications.
- The programme is now widely regarded in its field, and evaluations have indicated significant resulting impacts for learners, their organisations and their communities.
- Evaluations have consistently demonstrated the benefit that the programme has had in opening up ongoing channels of communication between practitioners and professionals working locally and regionally within the sector. An online version of the programme is currently being developed.

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For more information on leadership and management development for regeneration and place-making, please contact Janet Parker at info@ibpacademy.com or on 01475 676116.