



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Employment through Fitness
Date:	10 February 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Cormac McCann, Leisure Development Manager

1. Relevant background information:

The Leisure Development Unit has established links with further and higher education colleges to improve employability of students in Belfast. Much of the current work is through offering placement, work experience and volunteering opportunities, and attending advisory board meetings on curriculum development.

Further partnership opportunities are being explored to enhance our existing links to include research, project management and project delivery.

Belfast Metropolitan College is a leading provider of vocational training for the fitness and active leisure sectors, qualifying over 600 individuals as fitness instructors to date.

This project is aimed at providing economically inactive people with a stepping stone into the fitness industry. Trainees will gain the Active IQ Level 2 Certificate in Fitness Instructing, which is an internationally recognised fitness qualification. Trainees will also benefit from one to one support from fitness professionals through mentoring and job shadowing with our professional fitness instructors.

The combination of qualifications and support from industry experts will help boost their employability skills and give them an important first step into the fitness industry.

2. Key Issues:

Employers now require applicants to have a minimum qualification of Level 2 Fitness Instructor before being considered for employment. This requirement

	<p>to have specific qualifications, alongside the cost of training is often a barrier to people entering the labour market as a fitness instructor.</p> <p>Through this partnership approach we will be offering 30 trainees, who must be in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance, access to training, assessment and mentoring support for only £70. Fees are typically up to £600 for a Level 2 professional fitness instructor course.</p> <p>Belfast Metropolitan College will be providing the course tutors from their Millfield Building and the practical sessions will be held in Shankill Leisure Centre and Falls Leisure Centre.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications:
	All marketing materials for the promotion of this programme will be provided through the Leisure Development budget.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality or good relations implications.

5.	Recommendations:
	That Members note the contents of this report.

6.	Decision tracking:
	None.

7.	Key to abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents attached
	Appendix 1: recruitment, turnover and promotion figures