

Dedicated to Your Future

Press release November 2009

BRAMALL BUILDS SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE WITH GROUND-BREAKING TRAINING SCHEME

Site manager Warren Scaife is one of the first in the country to benefit from ground-breaking training to help construction professionals cope with business and market changes.

He is one of nine Bramall Construction employees working in South and West Yorkshire who have recently completed the company's 'dedicated to your future' programme, set up to give them the skills to meet new challenges facing the industry.

Warren, of Thurnscoe, South Yorkshire, took part in the specially designed course at Doncaster College. The course is intended to help staff find out more about new build social housing, which the company increasingly delivers alongside its ongoing 'Decent Homes' improvement work.

'Dedicated to your future' is the only course of its kind in the UK, and is supported by Doncaster Business School. It has been so successful for the graduates that Bramall is repeating the programme for 26 colleagues from disciplines including finance, procurement and health and safety.



The training covered seven key elements of the new build process over six months, including design and procurement, planning, drawing and document management, work packages, commercial management, technology and after care.

"It's been a great experience," said Warren. "I am really pleased that the course has gone well."



"I am now working on a new build project in Pontefract, where we are building nearly 50 new homes for Wakefield and District Housing, so I've been able to put what I have learned to good use pretty quickly."

"Yes, times are tough for the construction industry, but Bramall has been great in showing us the way forward and giving us the skills and knowledge to help the business move into different areas."

Over the years, Bramall Construction has built a reputation as one of the best known social housing improvement specialists in the country, bringing thousands of houses up to the Government's Decent Homes Standard ahead of the Government's 2010 deadline.

Increasingly though, Bramall is working on new build developments as they look to satisfy the demand for affordable housing in the UK.

The programme was designed and delivered by construction specialist Paul Hughes, a former industry professional who now runs his own company, Hughes Training Strategies.

He said: "Bramall has seen that refurbishment and new build work have different aspects to them and understandably need different skills. In setting up this course, Bramall has been forward-thinking and seen that the key to succeeding lies within its own business."

"Those who have completed the bespoke course have credits which they can now put towards taking a Foundation Degree at college or university."

"I have worked with many of the major construction companies, but never on a scheme such as this. I've never come across it anywhere, in fact. It is great that Bramall is investing in the future of its staff to allow the company to continue its success."

Neil Baxter, Managing Director of Bramall Construction, said: "My congratulations go to all those who have completed the course, for all the hard work they have put in."

"This has been part of our response to an increase in demand for new housing, but it's also a crucial element of our response to recent changes in the social housing market."

"At the end of the day, it's all about the people: they have the dedication, but they also need the skills, knowledge and confidence to help us succeed as a company."

"I am proud of the progress that's been made to date."