



The **Bridges into Work** project started in January 2009. Its aim is to support local people gain the skills and confidence to help them move towards employment.

The project is part funded by the Welsh European Funding Office across 6 local authorities in Convergence areas of South Wales – **Merthyr Tydfil**, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend and Caerphilly.

In **Merthyr Tydfil** the project is managed and implemented by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, which has enjoyed massive success with its recent venture The Neighbourhood Learning Programme. It has helped to engage local people to secure full time employment and to progress onto further learning in recent years.

Carrying on from the achievement is the Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Gurnos and the newly established Training Employment Centre in Treharris. Both centres seek to engage with local people from all parts of Merthyr Tydfil and fulfil the Bridges into Work objective of providing encouragement, training, advice and guidance for socially excluded people with the view to get them back into work.

The Neighbourhood Learning Centre has a range of training facilities covering a variety of sectors including plumbing, painting and decorating, carpentry, bricklaying, plastering, retail, customer service and computer courses. There are a team of experienced tutors who deliver training for local people within the community.

Bridges into Work successfully delivered a Pre-Employment course for Cwm Taf Health Trust to recruit Health Care Assistants. With the help and support of the Neighbourhood Learning Pre-Employment Partnership fronted by the Bridges into Work Programme which includes organisations such as Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil, Remploy, Working Links, Shaw Trust, A4E, JobCentre Plus and JobMatch successfully provided and supported participants interested in becoming Health Care Assistants.

To be eligible for support from the **Bridges into Work** Project in Merthyr Tydfil you will need to meet the following criteria:

- aged 16 years or older
- Unemployed or work less than 16 hours a week
- Living within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough