

Women Building Links

August 2009

Women Building Links aims to provide access to training, networking and other support activities for women working in the construction and built environment industry in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

The Network is jointly run by the West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network (WYLLN) based at Leeds College of Building and Construction Knowledge Exchange (CKE) based at Leeds Metropolitan University. The network recently formed a steering group which includes a variety of strategic partners including; UK Resource Centre for Women in SET, Women in Property, Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), ConstructionLeeds & Leeds City College, Technology Campus.

Women Building Links has recently been successful in gaining funding from ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Construction. Funding has been provided for Phase 3 of the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative, Raising Skills and Unlocking Potential for the Yorkshire & Humber region for the forthcoming year. Southdale Homes are the lead ambassador for the project.

The Women & Work Sector Pathways Initiative aims to raise recruitment levels in sectors where women are under-represented, increase earning potential and aid career progression. The initiative is in response to recommendations by the Women & Work Commission's report 'Shaping a Fairer Future' and receives government funding, matched by employer contributions. Phase 1 of the programme which ran from November 2006 to March 2008 was a huge success with over 2,200 women helped to access work related training and support initiatives in the construction industry – beating the target of 1,800. ConstructionSkills is one of five SSCs selected to continue the programme for another three years.

The project in Yorkshire & Humber will help women already working in the industry to obtain further training in order to enhance their careers. Each woman will benefit from the programme by following a personal development plan and they will receive support and encouragement from their employer and other organisations. The programme will have three key elements to it; CPD training, an introduction to mentoring and access to a professional networking site. Examples of CPD training are *Managing Upwards – influencing your boss* and *Dealing with difficult Behaviours*.

The launch event; '*Putting the Foundations in Place*' took place on Thursday 18th June the was a great success with 15 delegates in attendance.

