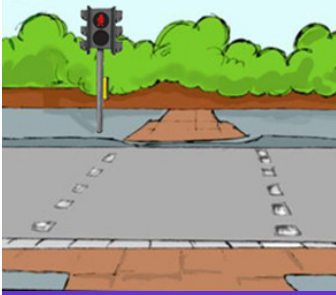


Stand No.9

Learning Disability Today
23 November 2005

London



INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING & ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

Training Resources



TODAY'S & TOMORROW'S WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Independent Travel Training & Road Safety Programme

This Open College Network (OCN) accredited training programme has been designed primarily to meet the needs of learning disabled candidates.

It aims to provide trainees accessing external training and employment opportunities with the necessary skills to travel independently and safely.

For many organisations and projects working with disadvantaged groups, getting clients from A to B often presents something of a challenge. Indeed transport arrangements invariably represent an ever-increasing drain on organisations' available financial resources.

Traditionally transport has been addressed through the utilisation

of segregated health or educational sector transport. With new thinking, which seeks to promote a more independent and integrated approach to various aspects of service delivery, many organisations are keen to explore options which offer an alternative to the traditional yellow buses.

Following consultation with a number of prominent organisations and interested parties working within the field of disabilities, the New Horizons Partnership, under their 'T&Two' brand name, embarked on an initiative to develop training resources, designed particularly with learning disabled clients in mind, which would address the issue of independent travel skills. This practical-based training

programme aims to provide organisations, particularly those involved with learning disabilities, with a complete training package that begins to



address the issue of independent travel. This 'Open College Network' accredited training programme goes some way to increasing the choice available to both organisations and end service users with regard to transport issues.



Having developed these comprehensive training resources, New Horizons Partnership are keen to disseminate the programme to as wide an audience as possible. With this in mind, we are delighted to be exhibiting at the Learning Disability Today event in the Business Design Centre London on Nov 23rd.

Although this programme has been developed in Northern Ireland, the essential

knowledge required for independent travel and road safety remains the same within all regions across the UK. Likewise, learning disabled clients, regardless of their geographical location have similar needs and aspirations for independence, employment and recreation.

If you think that this programme may be of interest to your organisation and the clients which you serve, why not visit us at Stand 9. were the programme development staff will be delighted to give you an overview of the resources, as well as details of how organisations wishing to use the programme can access it.

New Horizons/T & Two Staff would like to wish all visitors and exhibitors an informative and enjoyable day. We hope you find the experience worthwhile and look forward to meeting you at our stand (Number 9).



How the package is used

The entire 'Independent Travel Training and Road Safety' programme is supplied on a CD-Rom which contains all the necessary materials to deliver the training. The programme has been designed to appeal specifically to individuals with learning disabilities and combines both theory and practical sessions.



The theory sessions feature a varied approach to programme delivery and are designed to

stimulate and hold the interest of participating clients, which ultimately aids the learning process. Features of the resource include the use of a highly pictorial workbook which is supported with the use of on-screen computer animations and sound files.

Each classroom-based theory session is followed by an outdoor practical activity that reinforces the learning from the preceding theory session.

The programme is a practically based training resource and therefore assessment of clients is undertaken using practical sessions from a 'can do' rather than a 'know how to do' perspective.



Clients undertaking a practical training session

What the programme covers

UNIT 1 Awareness for Pedestrians

UNIT 2 Safe Travel

UNIT 3 Travel Independently

- NEW -

The programme has recently been revised and now comprises 3 units.

Each participating trainee begins the programme with unit 1 and works incrementally towards unit 3. As the target client group will inevitably consist of a broad range of individuals with varying degrees of ability, the programme starts at a very basic level and progresses gradually to address more complex issues.

Units 1 & 2 are graded by the 'Open College Network' at entry level. The third unit, Travel Independently, is graded at level one.

Each of the units within the programme can be accredited individually, therefore every trainee regardless of ability should be able to achieve something from the programme.



In all there are 10 separate activities encompassed within the 3 units of the programme. Each activity combines a theory session and a practical session. The classroom-based theory sessions focus on the use of a comprehensive pictorial workbook — supplemented by sounds and animations — following the structured lesson plans provided within the pack.

The theory sessions and workbook activities are designed in short bite-sized modules that feature a diverse range of learning styles. These differing approaches are intended to appeal to as broad a range of abilities as possible. This varied ability is representative of the target client group.

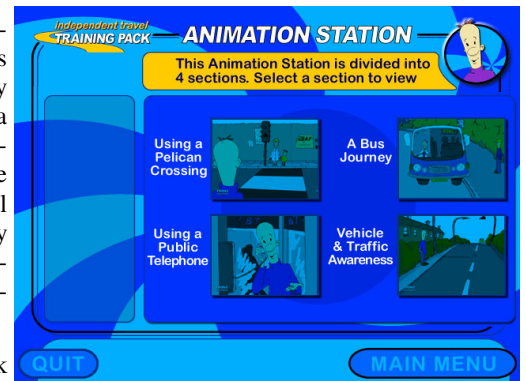
Classroom based modules and workbook activities are supported by **sound files and animations**.

Four central animation stations feature activities likely to be encountered by trainees as they eventually experience independent travel. These four animation stations are:

- Using a Pelican Crossing
- A Bus Journey
- Using a Public Telephone
- Vehicle and Traffic Awareness

The use of animations within a classroom setting, where appropriate, facilitates learning of relatively complex skills in a safe environment.

The classroom-based activities are further enhanced with the use of com-



puter generated sound files which again replicate everyday travel-related sounds in a safe environment.

Ultimately the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and that's why the practical aspects of training delivery are the central focus of the entire programme.

Evaluation of the skills learned by trainees is always undertaken in real settings, i.e., along the roadside, on buses, taxis, trains, at pelican crossings, in public telephone boxes, etc.

Learning is fun and practical, and these skills are essential to all individuals.



How long does the programme last?

The programme consists of 3 units which between them contain a notional 120 hours of learning time. This timeframe is intended to be interpreted by the trainer with reference to the capabilities of individual end users. Ultimately the programme is intended to be delivered at a pace which reflects the needs of the end user and therefore the 120 hours is very much a guide to be used for programme planning and is not intended to be a rigid timeframe for actual programme delivery.

No time restrictions are placed on programme delivery, with end users progressing through the package at their own pace. The programme features theory and practical sessions that may be repeated as often as necessary.



The needs of the target client group are such that repetition of session are often required to ensure retention of the skills being taught. At all times client safety is of paramount importance. It is therefore extremely important that clients' capabilities are accurately reflected and reported. A detailed evaluation of each activity undertaken by each client participating in the programme is a key feature of the programme output.

What is needed to deliver the programme

Minimum Computer Specification Required

Operating Systems: Windows 95c, 98, 2000, NT4 (SP4), Me, XP
Pref. 2Mb Video Card (AGP or PCI), older cards may produce reduced quality.
Minimum PII 166Mhz 32 Mb (pref. 64Mb) of Ram
Sound card & Speakers
Minimum 12 speed CD-Rom
The CD-Rom requires Quicktime 4 and Acrobat reader 4 to be installed on your machine (these are supplied on the disc)

The requirements of programme delivery fit into two categories, *Physical Resources* and *Human Resources*.

Physical Resources relates to the collection of equipment and premises/classroom, etc., that will be needed. It includes access to a PC with a minimum specification as highlighted above.

All necessary training materials including trainers' lesson plans, trainee workbooks, assessment documentation, trainee feedback sheets, animations and sound files, etc., are supplied on the CD.

Human Resources are the actual personnel — trainers and programme delivery staff — charged with running the programme. As safety is of utmost importance, it is vital that those responsible for the delivery of the programme are appropriately trained and competent in the use of the resources and programme.



To ensure the quality of programme delivery and assist organisations wishing to deliver the Independent Travel training programme, T&Two have developed a Training of Trainers programme (TOT) to accompany the Independent Travel Training Programme. This TOT programme will provide staff training that will enable organisations to deliver independent travel training to their clients on an ongoing basis, as and when required.

This TOT programme incorporates a recognised qualification that is accredited by the Open College Network. Further details on this programme are outlined in the article below.

Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme

In order to ensure the quality and consistency of programme delivery, T&Two have developed a 'Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme' to accompany the 'Independent Travel Training Pack'.

The TOT programme, like the 'Independent Travel Training Programme', is accredited by the 'Open College Network'. This provides organisations with the opportunity to gain qualifications for their staff, who will subsequently have the capacity to deliver the 'Independent Travel Training programme' to clients.

The 'Training of Trainers Programme' equips those individuals and organisa-



tions working with the target client group with an accredited 'Open College Network' qualification at level 3.

The comprehensive 'Training of Trainers Programme' includes a series of tutorial sessions delivered by training officer, **Gerry McWilliams**, who has been involved in developing the revised 'Independent Travel Training' resources.

The programme is designed to

give participating trainers a thorough grounding in all aspects of delivery of the 'Independent Travel Training' product. As part of the programme, each trainer will be supplied with detailed training and quality assurance manuals which outline in a pictorial manner each of the steps required to competently deliver travel training to end users.

The TOT programme includes direct observation and assessment of prospective trainers as they delivery the

'Independent Travel Training Programme' to end users (undertaken with supervision). Trainers are also evaluated on their understanding and competence in the use of training resources and their interpretation of their end users' competencies.





**TODAY'S & TOMORROW'S
WORK OPPORTUNITIES**

**A New Horizons Partnership
Initiative**

Today's and Tomorrow's Work Opportunities (T & Two)
45 c Derry Road
Strabane, Co. Tyrone, BT82 8DY

Phone: 028 7188 3114
Fax: 028 7188 5273
Email: mail@tandttwo.co.uk



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www.tandttwo.co.uk

Expression of Interest Form



TODAY'S & TOMORROW'S
WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Please post/fax or e-mail these details to T & Two at the address opposite.

Please supply me with further details on how to access the Independent Travel Training Programme and Training of Trainers Programme outlined within this newsheet (Business Design Centre, London 2005)

Name: _____

Job Role: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel No. _____ Email: _____

Product origin and sponsors

The production of these resources originated from an exercise initiated by the New Horizons Supported Employment Team in Strabane, Co. Tyrone.

In the spring of 2000, a number of practitioners working within the field of Learning Disabilities were invited to attend a meeting at the New Horizons Strabane facility with a view to identifying some of the barriers that their clients were collectively experiencing regarding integration within their communities and progression into the world of work.

In addition to the New Horizons staff members present at the meeting, individuals from the following organisations were in attendance:

- Glenside Adult Training Centre
- Glenside Special School
- Belmont House Special School
- Foyle Down's Syndrome Trust
- The Orchardville Society
- Mencap

Among the many experiences shared between individuals at this very productive meeting was the recurring theme of problems relating to travel. In particular the lack of appropriate training resources to address independent travel for clients was identified as a major barrier.

Resulting from this meeting, the New Horizons Team at Strabane resolved to proactively pursue this issue, and so began a process that has ultimately led to the production of the resources outlined within this newsheet.



financial support from the European Unit of the Training & Employment Agency helped with the research and development of the programme. Pilot-

Along the way considerable assistance was forthcoming from numerous individuals and organisations. In particular,



ing of resources was facilitated through a CAWT funded initiative which was facilitated

with the assistance of the 'Bridging the Gap Project' and the 'Little Angels Special School' in Letterkenny.



Advice on issues of technical accuracy of the training materials was forthcoming from Translink, Merseytravel and British Telecom.



Importantly the end user focus groups comprising trainees from Letterkenny and Strabane contributed considerably to the development process and eventual refinement of these resources.

