New Shared Apprenticeship Programme NI

New Shared Apprenticeship Scheme to pave the way for the local construction industry

CITB ConstructionSkills NI and Fusion21 are working together to pilot a novel way to employ apprenticeships for the construction industry. The Shared Apprenticeship Programme NI allows apprentices to complete a full apprenticeship programme by working with a number of different employers, to gain the skill sets they require to become qualified. Throughout the duration of the training the apprentice will also obtain their level 3 Vocational Qualification through the normal College system. This pilot will produce highly qualified and experienced apprentices who are work ready for the industry.

In starting this venture Barry Neilson, CITB ConstructionSkills NI Chief Executive, said “This is a development we are very excited about. Contracts in the construction industry, particularly for smaller companies can often be short term, which means that companies aren’t always in a position to offer an apprenticeship even though they would benefit from having an apprentice on their team. The Shared Apprenticeship Scheme will counter this issue, allowing companies to share apprentices as and when they have work for them. For both employers and apprentices it provides a simple and effective solution that does not substitute traditional recruitment but instead drives additional skills development to meet the needs of employers and industry.”

Janis Simpson-Mahoney, Regional Director of Fusion21 in Northern Ireland said of the scheme “This is a great opportunity for us to engage with local young apprentices and give them a secure employment base on which to expand their learning. We see this model which we have successfully delivered in GB as an exceptional opportunity to try out a new approach to the employment of local apprentices and are delighted to be working in partnership with CITB ConstructionSkills NI”

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