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No testing times for assessors

Three trades people have swapped their tools for assessment sheets, after moving into new careers as construction assessors.

Stephanie Inns, Darren Varney and Richard Fallows are using their combined 93 years of experience, to train and assess the next generation of construction workers.

The trio have undergone training of their own, and now all boast an A1 assessor qualification. From today, they will be out about on construction sites across the West Midlands measuring the performance and skills of other trades people against National Vocational Qualification standards.

Stephanie Inns, who used to work as a team leader for the painting and decorating team within Whitefriars' HomeWorks team, said: "I am finding my new role challenging, varied and very rewarding. This is a great opportunity for colleagues in the construction industry to gain a recognised qualification and it enables me to use my own experience in the industry in a way that benefits others."

The move is part of Whitefriars' training and development agency's plan to support the Government's push to ensure everyone working in construction has the right qualifications and training to keep themselves competent in the trade and safe on site.

Whitefriars set up its training and development agency in 2000 to address the skills shortages in the region and to offer local people the chance to complete construction training. Since the training and development agency started work, more than 250 people have gained qualifications through the scheme.

More are set to benefit as the boosted team can now also assess Maintenance Operations (Multiskills) Constructions Operations, Fitted Interiors and NVQ Level 3 in Trowel occupations.

Peter Brady, operations manager at Whitefriars' training and development agency, said: "These secondments within Whitefriars demonstrate our commitment to developing staff and utilising skills in other areas of the organisation. It is also a great way to contribute to building the skills in the current construction workforce ensuring they meet the needs of the industry.

"The three seconded team members have really worked hard and we are delighted to have them for a year to further develop their skills, as they develop the skills of others.

"With new funding gained, Whitefriars' training and development agency is going from strength to strength and we are delighted that we can now provide a wider range of assessment and qualification services to improve the construction industry across the region."

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