Press Release: 13 January 2005



HILTON IN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Supporting Young People Worldwide

BLUE SKIES THINKING - HILTON IN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GIVES TRAVEL BOOST TO DISABLED TRAINEES

Few industries change as rapidly as the Travel and Hospitality business world and staying ahead of the game is often as exciting as it is challenging.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Training College has risen to the challenge and is soon to open a new Hotel and Leisure Reception course to capitalise on the growth and diversification of the industry.

Angela Honeywood, Head of Marketing and Employment Development at the College explains: "Due to an increase in leisure and business travel, weekend breaks, fitness and health clubs and so on the hospitality and leisure industry is expanding all the time. The course will feature training in customer service techniques and computer skills including using a specialised software package commonly used throughout the industry. Anyone with a disability interested in joining this course can contact the College or visit their Jobcentre and arrange to see a Disability Employment Adviser"

This new course is now possible thanks to the kind support and funding of Hilton in the Community Foundation who have donated £40,000 towards its costs. Hilton in the Community Foundation's new Director, Simon Sheehan and General Manager of the Hilton Cobham, Gillian Pendlebury, recently visited the Training College to see the progress made by trainees at the College's Travel and Tourism Course. Simon commented, "It is great to see the enthusiasm of all the staff and I am extremely impressed with the positive impact that the skills learnt on this course. These skills will allow the students real employment opportunities in the tourism industry."

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Notes for Editors:

About Queen Elizabeth's Foundation – Queen Elizabeth's Foundation is a registered charity based in Leatherhead, Surrey providing solutions to the needs of people with disabilities through the work of its five sites specialising in education, vocational training, brain injury rehabilitation, skills development and mobility as well as an information service

About Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Training College - Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Training College has been working with people with disabilities for nearly 70 years. The College delivers an exceptional standard of training and education to enable its trainees to gain employment and independence. Providing a vibrant and stimulating environment, the College works to educate and retrain people with disabilities through its certified courses, which vary from Information Technology, Horticulture and Computer Aided Design through to Travel Services.

About the Hilton in the Community Foundation - Hilton in the Community Foundation was registered as a charity in 2000. Under the banner of "Supporting local communities Worldwide" the Foundation aims to make a difference to those most in need. The chosen areas of focus for the charity are "Young People and Education", "Hospitality Training and Employment" and "International Disaster Relief". In 2004 more than £340,000 has been donated to numerous charitable causes, such as Teenage Cancer Trust, The Royal School for the Deaf, Treloars Trust, The Outward Bound Trust and the Snowdon Awards Scheme.

Visit us at <u>www.hilton-foundation.org.uk</u>