

# Work placements to boost job prospects

WORK experience is being offered to help people improve their job prospects in the construction sector.

St Leger Homes has joined forces with training provider New Career Skills (NCS) to provide opportunities for people hoping to enter the industry.

NCS retrains mature people who want to change careers for jobs as electricians, plumbers and renewable energy engineers.

St Leger Homes, which manages Doncaster's 21,000 council homes, is currently carrying out a major investment programme to improve properties. Among those to benefit from its work experience initiative is NCS graduate electrician, Trevor Capeness from Warmsworth. Trevor, 33, shadows St Leger's lead electrician two days a week working on the company's various projects in Doncaster.

He said: "With the economic climate being as it is, it's vital for tradespeople to gain work experience and I'm grateful that the company that trained me is also supporting me in helping to find a placement at St Leger Homes.

"It has been a rewarding experience working for a company that works so closely with the community and to see the work I do alongside the electrical team benefit local residents.

Susan Jordan, St Leger Homes' chief executive, added: "We're more than just a landlord and believe in supporting the social regeneration of communities. One of the ways we do this is by supporting people by offering work experience to help them gain the new skills and confidence they need to re-enter the world of work."

New Career Skills was founded in 1998 as a specialist training provider, focusing on giving mature career changers (both men and women) the skills, experience and qualifications needed for a better career.

In 2003, the company realised there was a shortage of skilled professionals in the construction industry and changed direction to focus on career changers who wanted to be plumbers and electricians, and latterly green engineers.

It works closely with industry to ensure that training programmes offer the most up-to-date and relevant skills possible

The past three years have seen the organisation expand considerably. In 2008, it was named one of the 100 fastest expanding companies in the UK.

For more information about New Career Skills visit [www.newcareerskills.co.uk](http://www.newcareerskills.co.uk) or call Freephone 0800 037 99 22.



**BRIGHT SPARK:** Graduate electrician Trevor Capeness (left) learns the tricks of the trade from Walt McMahon of St Leger Homes.