



54 Degrees Project Consultancy Kirklees Council



Improving Project Management Methodology

Project Client

Kirklees Council has had its own internal project management methodology since 2004. The approach is based on PRINCE2, but allows for a more flexible approach when handling small to medium sized projects.

The Council contacted Sarah Wilson when its own internal project management trainer was approaching retirement. They wanted someone local who had the same ethos as them when it came to project delivery - whilst following a framework gives you control and stability, a degree of flexibility is vital when working in the challenging public sector.

Sarah has been delivering well received two-day courses based on their method on a regular basis ever since.

Project Aim

Delegates and project managers at Kirklees have access to documents and templates to use alongside their projects. On the courses, Sarah went through the standard templates, as well as practising some practical techniques in planning, risk management, and other critical areas of project management.

Delegates brought their own projects along to the session to help understand how the approach can be applied in their world, rather than using a case study approach which delegates often struggle to relate to.

The two-day courses were delivered at various locations in Kirklees to a wide variety of employees from the Council – from people just beginning their adventure into project work to people who have been delivering projects for years, but wanting a more formal understanding of the profession.

Sarah was also brought onto the internal review team when Kirklees decided it was time to review their project management materials and update them, to stay in line with new thinking around project management. As part of this process, Sarah worked with the team to decide what updates were appropriate and helped develop a document which considered the behavioural aspects of project management. She also updated the training course based on the changes to the revised framework. This document is now part of the standard set of documentation offered to support the delegates.

Sarah is undertaking an ongoing review of the Council's training offering, and recently developed a course for people working in Project Support Officer (PSO) roles.

Project Result

98% of delegates trained agreed or strongly agreed that the two-day course was useful to them.

"54 degrees have been the cornerstone of project management training within Kirklees Council for over four years now. Totally professional at all times, Sarah's combination of detailed subject knowledge, flexibility and approachability is consistently reflected very positively within post-course evaluations. Outside of the training room Sarah has provided invaluable guidance and support in the design of organisation-wide project management strategy and support materials. Always a pleasure to work with." David Sharples, Kirklees Council



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