



54 Degrees Project Training/ Consultancy Calderdale Council



A Common Sense Approach to Project Management

Project Client

Calderdale Council approached Sarah Wilson to help complete its new common sense approach to project management and spread the word throughout the Council.

Project Aim

To engage staff, who are bombarded with new approaches all the time and are “weary” of new campaigns, they needed someone with experience and knowledge of project and programme management, an understanding of the challenges working within Local Authorities, and enough creativity and enthusiasm to reach every corner of the Council.

Sarah worked closely with internal staff to develop an online learning tool and a set of workshops which were tailored to exactly match Calderdale’s message.



Sarah also worked with the Corporate Projects Officer on the risk management, communications and reporting phases of the development, which had to fit with the new programme management approach, as well as the Programme and Project Information Management System (PIMS), a SharePoint system which was being developed at the same time.

Project result

A common sense approach, if not used by the right people or consistently across the organisation, can have an adverse effect on project delivery. A key part of the work 54 degrees was commissioned to deliver, was the dissemination of the approach across the Council. Sarah had face-to-face sessions with senior management teams from all the Directorates, and councillors, to engage them with the approach and the training. She then worked with each Directorate to agree the key people to attend and realistic case studies to use during the sessions. By listening to and working with the organisation the project delivered training to 90% of the target audience. Out of these 254 people 93% said that they would do things better as a result of the training.

With the project and initial round of training completed, the online learning portal can now be used to support council staff needing help with project management.

“For anyone weary of project management courses, this is one not to miss!” – Course delegate

“Sarah was a joy to work with and immediately became an indispensable member of the team. Her considerable experience and skills added value to the project. She helped to shape the work delivered to the specific needs of the organisation and the individuals involved. Her enthusiasm was infectious and helped to create support and buy in.”
Corporate Projects Officer

“Sarah succeeded in imparting the skills needed to run successful projects to a large number of staff, especially those with little previous project management experience. She gave them the confidence and the tools that they needed in order to successfully deliver projects in their own areas of the Council.”
Business Improvement Manager

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