



54 Degrees Project Training Flying Cloud Theatre



Adapting Small Businesses to Accommodate New Staff

Project Client

Former actress and writer Leandra Ashton established Flying Cloud Theatre in 2010, which provides practical tools to help release creativity and imagination through innovative business training and community and school workshops.

The successful small business was experiencing a period of high growth and Leandra was keen to look at ways of adapting the business in order to take on a new team to support her, with minor disruption



Project Aim

New start-ups and sole traders find the transition hard when they have to employ new staff to accommodate increasing workloads. From working on your own to having to manage and delegate to a team is not an easy task.

Using SEF funding, Sarah Wilson was able to offer training sessions to sole-traders who had recently employed a member of staff, to help reduce stress by improving the ability to plan and delegate to the new team member, as well as get the best out of limited resources by improving skills in planning and logistics.

Leandra attended one of Sarah's funded sessions and was able to use the time out from her business to reflect on where the company was and where she wanted it to be. Through the session, Sarah helped Leandra identify her goals and provided her with ideas and processes to help her achieve them.

Project Results

Leandra said: *"In the last month I've expanded the team of workshop facilitators and taken on a graduate assistant... the impact of which is starting to be felt. I have more headspace to focus on the creative side of the company as well as perspective to manage the overall strategy."*

**The Skills
Enhancement
Fund**

The Skills Enhancement Fund is a £50m resource unique to Yorkshire and Humber providing interventions in skills and workforce development which cannot be funded through other sources. The fund, which is co-financed by the Skills Funding Agency through the European Social Fund and managed by Calderdale College on behalf of the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges, has supported over 50,000 individuals through part-funded training to employers across Yorkshire & Humber, ensuring that staff are given the support to progress and businesses are able to build a stronger and more productive workforce.

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