



Blackburne House Group

Blackburne House Group, seek to transform women's lives and encourage their independence through the provision of education, training and opportunities of every kind in an environment of equality and inspiration.

About Blackburne House

Our History

Women's Technology And Education Centre (WTEC), formerly known as the Women's Technology Scheme, was established in 1983. The aim was to attract low paid or unemployed women and equip them with the skills to progress into employment in technical professions; an area in which women are traditionally under-represented. In 1989 the Women's Technology Scheme became the first ever women's voluntary organisation to gain accreditation to offer a BTEC National Certificate in Computing.

Through the dedication, vision and pro-activity of past and present staff, the WTEC has been able to expand the provision of education and services having originally secured funding to provide a training course for 30 women in rented rooms at the Merseyside Trade Union Centre.

By 1991 the organisation had expanded considerably and it was therefore necessary to find new accommodation. Over £4 million was raised from diverse funders in order to refurbish Blackburne House.

Today Blackburne House is one of the leading women's education providers with a range of award winning social enterprises across Merseyside. The organisation runs over 50 different courses with over 1000 full and part time learning opportunities. Consistently high numbers of hard to reach and socially excluded women continue to visit and study at Blackburne House.

Blackburne House have been offering educational opportunities to women for over 20 years. The organisation has been officially recognised as a centre of excellence having been awarded Grade 1 for education provision by the LSC. This grade was only achieved by the top 8% of external Adult Education

Institutions in Britain. In addition, the centre is ranked in the top 10% of colleges and educational providers in the UK.

Now part of the Blackburne House Group, WTEC continues to offer a variety of courses and the training remit now encompasses not only women embarking upon education for the first time but also professional women looking to broaden their skills and enhance their career prospects.

Blackburne House Group is driven by a set of values; Transformation, Equality, Inspiration and Independence, which are embedded into all the organisation does. We want women to be inspired by their educational experience at Blackburne House and to realise economic independence once they start their chosen career.

The Blackburne House Group

In 2002 Blackburne House amended the constitution of the organisation, which is now known as the Blackburne House Group. The new structure provides the opportunity to add to the existing business base.

Blackburne House Group are able to offer today's women a holistic learning experience due to the number of onsite social enterprises. Blackburne House Group have been formally recognised as one of the country's leading Social Enterprises after being one in five winners of the DTI sponsored Enterprising Solution Awards.

The following business areas are used by thousands of students, visitors and organisations each year:

Blackburne House **Education**

Blackburne House continually work to break down stereotypical perceptions of what are deemed to be male dominated professions. 2003 saw the launch of the Constructive Women Courses where women are able to study for qualifications in plastering, carpentry and joinery as well as building occupations.

Blackburne House **Consultancy**

Blackburne House has an extensive range of consultancy services which it delivers to a number of businesses from private sector to social enterprises. This has included board development, management training, IT support and IT training.

Blackburne House **Café**

The award winning café bar is a popular meeting point for students as well as local people living and working nearby. It serves a wide variety of freshly prepared food using the finest locally supplied ingredients.

Blackburne House **Nursery**

The Nursery offers a multi racial, multi cultural environment for children. We aim to ensure that each child is treated as an individual and given the best opportunity to reach his / her full potential. Regular play schemes and holiday clubs are also run throughout the year.

Blackburne House **Health Place**

The Health Place closely reflects the ethos of Blackburne House as it was set up to provide access for women who can least afford and are traditionally least likely to participate in health promoting activity. The Health Place runs a wide range of daytime and evening activities including yoga, belly dancing and meditation.

Blackburne House **Conference Centre**

The conference centre is light, bright and welcoming and is an ideal venue for business conferences, meetings, functions and private parties.

bravadesign

Brava Design provides innovative and cost effective design services to small companies and other social businesses. In addition to this the company provides industry experience for women who are studying design related courses at Blackburne House. Brava has received national recognition for the work they have undertaken and have worked with high profile organisations including Future Builders and Liverpool Plus.

Blackburne House, Blackburne Place
Off Hope Street, Liverpool
L8 7PE
Tel: 0800 587 7672
Fax: 0151 709 8293
www.blackburnehouse.co.uk