

## CASE STUDY: APEX PROJECT



LSEP has invested £237,000 to enable the APEX project to expand the scale and range of its training opportunities and support services to people experiencing disadvantage and barriers to entering the labour market. To enable them to do this APEX refurbished and improved an inner city building which had been vacant for over 20 years.

In March 2006 APEX reported a very strong performance including:

- Creation of seventeen new jobs
- Support for more than 300 people who gained employment
- Assistance for 400 people to develop their skills
- Improvement of 280 people's basic skills

A course designed to help lone parents into training and work has made a real impact on the life of Marie Baker. She gave up her life on the beautiful island of Mauritius, where she worked in catering, to move to Leicester along with her two children.

Marie had been working but had to give up her job in Syston as it wasn't fitting around the children. Social Services arranged benefits for Marie but she wanted to continue working. She then met someone outside school who told her about APEX. She attended a two-day Mini Discovery Week run by APEX and JobCentre Plus, which gave her the confidence to apply for work. Her first application proved successful and she's working with the Leicester Quaker Housing Association at the John Woolman House, where housing and support is provided for the elderly.

This daytime work enables Marie to fulfill her family commitments but just as importantly has given her a new sense of pride. Marie said "When my relationship with my husband ended I just couldn't see a way forward. Things were very tough financially and I was very low, but then I heard about APEX and the training courses available. I love the work and being able to provide for my children again. The APEX course showed me that there is hope for everyone and that it was up to me to go out there and find a job I wanted."