



REPAIR ACADEMY

TRANSFORMING WASTE - CHANGING LIVES

Repair Academy is a partnership initiative between:



Tuesday 29 April 2014

Launch of new Repair Academy

The Repair Academy, a new social enterprise start up dedicated to reducing waste, providing skills and training for young people and offering affordable goods to low-income households has been officially opened in Calne by Wiltshire Council leader Jane Scott OBE.

The Repair Academy has been formed as a partnership between Hills Waste Solutions and Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Community First, Kennet Furniture Recycling, Waste Not Want Not, Wiltshire College and Swindon College. The Repair Academy aims to:

- Create social, economic and environmental value by transforming unwanted products into desirable goods
- Support people in need by helping them gain skills for employment and life
- Change public opinion to make used and repaired items more attractive
- Foster an attitude of re-use and repair of materials.

Earlier this month The Repair Academy received a grant for £58,000 from the Innovation Fund set up by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon. The funding

helped to set up The Repair Academy premises at Porte Marsh Industrial Estate in Calne. The majority of the work to make the premises ready for use was carried out by young volunteers completing their National Citizen Service scheme with Youth Action Wiltshire.

Following the launch, Hills Waste Solutions and Wiltshire Council will run a pilot scheme at three of the council's household recycling centres at Honeyball (Lower Compton, Calne), Melksham, and Marlborough. Staff on site will identify suitable furniture, certain white goods and bric-a-brac and set these aside for donation to The Repair Academy. The pilot scheme will run until the end of 2014 after which the academy will be set up as an independent charity or social enterprise.



Clr Jane Scott leader of Wiltshire Council and trainees at the Repair Academy



Representatives of the partners in the Repair Academy (left to right) Brian Simmons of Waste Not Want Not, David Murley of Wiltshire College, Phillipa Read of Community First, Doug North of Kennet Furniture Refurbiz, Andrea Pellegram of Hills Waste Solutions, Dr Gary Mantle OBE of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Julia Hoskins of Swindon College

Items will be transported to Porte Marsh where they will be repaired and refurbished to return them to use as high quality goods by trainees and volunteers, primarily those designated as NEET (not in education, employment or training). The partnership with Community First means that The Repair Academy will be able to reach many “at risk” individuals, providing them with transferrable training and skills.

Partnership working with Swindon and Wiltshire Colleges will provide further traineeships, allowing students to continue working with The Repair Academy towards Level 2 qualifications and with the intention of

securing apprenticeship or job interviews for those who complete a full traineeship course with the Repair Academy.

Reducing, re-using and recycling waste has long been the focus of Wiltshire Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy. Working in partnership with Hills Waste Solutions, the council has increased recycling in Wiltshire to more than 44% and has reduced the amount of waste going to landfill to less than 27%.

Cllr Jane Scott said: “By working with Hills Waste Solutions to deliver the new Repair Academy trial at three of the council's Household Recycling Centres, we are aiming to achieve more sustainable ways to manage Wiltshire’s waste, by reducing and reusing items which would have previously gone straight to landfill, while also delivering a wide range of local benefits for Wiltshire.”

Once items have been refurbished, they will be distributed through Kennet Furniture Refurbiz and Waste Not Want Not, existing charities that help local people and provide goods at a low cost to benefit families in crisis and low-income households throughout Wiltshire. Goods will also be distributed through Community First’s town centre pop-up shops. ENDS

Media contact:

Monique Hayes, Group communications officer, The Hills Group Limited
Tel: 01793 714978 monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk

