



**August 2009**

## **HM YOI DEERBOLT – GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A SAFE START**

The British Safety Council's Level 1 qualification in Health and Safety is taken up by many organisations including schools, workplaces and even prisons. Deerbolt Young Offenders Institute is one of the many prison establishments around the country that offer the Level 1 Health and Safety qualification to its prisoners.

Deerbolt is a Young Offenders Institute for men aged between 18 and 21 serving a maximum four year sentence. Some of the young people who come to Deerbolt haven't had the opportunity to gain many qualifications but as a Category 3 Training Prison, Deerbolt invests a great deal in the education and training of young offenders.

As part of its course programme, Deerbolt offers the British Safety Council's Level 1 Health and Safety qualification. This qualification enables the successful candidates to gain jobs within the prison or go on to vocational training at Deerbolt which includes bricklaying, motor mechanics and catering.

Ken Hutchinson Lecturer at Deerbolt explains the usefulness of this qualification to Deerbolt Young Offenders Institute. "The young offenders can see the benefit of having a qualification like this. The qualification can help the candidates secure jobs whilst resident at Deerbolt, giving them a degree of independence and responsibility which is otherwise limited in a prison environment. With this qualification young offenders can also take part in the vocational training Deerbolt offers and it may also increase their chances of finding employment when they are eventually released".

Ken continues: "I teach the course to an average of 8 to 10 people a week and so far this year 338 candidates have taken the qualification. I find the course easy to teach and the British Safety Council offers excellent resources to teach from".

By choosing the British Safety Council qualification, Deerbolt allows its young offenders to gain a valuable qualification that will help them learn the skills they need to stay safe and healthy in any work environment, whether it is in prison or outside in the workplace. To date, over 8,000

prisoners and those on probation have taken the Level 1 Certificate thanks to the free examinations offered by the BSC.

-ENDS-

#### **Notes to editors**

Founded in 1957, and operating in over 50 countries, the British Safety Council (BSC) is one of the world's leading independent authorities on occupational health and safety. As a registered charity with a global network of 8,000 members and subscribers, the BSC provides information, audits, expert training and qualifications, all designed to promote a healthier, safer and more sustainable society, and in the longer term, to influence these agendas on the worldwide stage. The BSC is the only organisation to offer the fullest suite of health and safety qualifications, including the NEBOSH National General Certificate and IOSH, IIRSM and IEMA accredited Diploma courses.

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