

As published in the Banbury Gazette:

## **BANBURY FOYER LAUNCHES IT WORKSHOPS**

A new series of IT workshops has been launched at Banbury Foyer, the scheme that provides accommodation, support and training opportunities for vulnerable young people.

Five new computers have been installed at the George Street premises and an IT consultant is helping residents make the most of them for study, job finding...and fun!

The workshops are being led by Lynda Altham who runs Kenilworth-based Advanced Information IQ, a firm that specialises in providing IT support and training to the business community.

“The initial response from residents has been superb,” she said. “They are all very positive about acquiring new skills and, of course, very excited about being able to use the new computers for recreational purposes as well as for their school and college work. The driving force behind this initiative is to provide these young people with the opportunity to acquire vital IT skills needed when actively seeking and gaining future employment.”

Foyer manager Ceri Deane said local businesses and other Foyer supporters had donated the money to buy the new computers.

“These days, all young people need to be confident and competent in their use of IT,” she said. “This new facility at the Foyer will enable residents to develop their skills and to expand the opportunities available to them when they come to move on.”

- There are currently around 140 Foyers throughout the UK supporting more than 10,000 homeless 16-25 year olds each year. They enable young people at risk to escape the ‘no home-no job-no home’ cycle by delivering a holistic service that integrates accommodation with training, job search and personal support.