



## Case Study

# UFA FELLOW

*“The unshakeable belief in the potential of all to achieve success.”*

*Karen Krence, Derbyshire UFA*

## Background

Karen Krence, an ICT worker with Derbyshire Local Education Authority, didn't know anything about the UFA prior to being approached to join the Partnership Management team for her area in January 2006. She soon came to recognise the value of UFA core principles. This is her story.



*“The long and short of it is that someone was needed to act as a consultant to support the Derbyshire UFA team. One grey January afternoon I found out that that someone was to be me.*

## The First Meeting

*A few weeks later, full of anticipation and the confident belief that I would soon know everything about the UFA, I headed off for my first UFA team meeting. It was an exceptionally cold morning around the middle of March and I made a timely arrival just as tea and biscuits were being served. Whilst everyone was settling down and getting organised my eyes*

*began to wander around the room and I noticed a number of posters placed randomly on the walls wherever there had been a space. The posters all carried a thought provoking quote or saying with an accompanying illustration. I smiled inwardly as many of them reflected my own personal philosophy of life. From that moment on I knew instinctively that whatever the UFA was I was definitely going to like it!*

## Train the Trainers

*A few weeks later I attended my first session with the Fellows from one of our established cohorts and also a “Train the Trainers” day led by UFA National Training Manager Lu Garner and the Derbyshire Partnership Manager Orlanda Dias. In between Super Learning Days and Emotional Intelligence I felt I was beginning to get to grips with the whole thing and could see a much clearer picture of the potential impact on learning for young people. I was also beginning to get some ideas about how ICT might be incorporated into some of the activities and how these might link with the whole UFA approach to learning, in particular the use of digital images and movies.*

*By the summer I had attended National UFA training events in Birmingham where I met other people involved with the UFA and learned heaps of new things from the National Training Managers Sarah Burgess and Manjit Shellis. In particular I was able to focus on the core principles of the UFA, consider them in more depth and explore what they might look like in Fellowship Training. By the end of those sessions the new people had become firm friends and I no longer felt like a fish out of water, instead I felt an incredible depth of support and a real sense of belonging.*

## Summer Challenge

*I was invited to attend a UFA Summer Challenge supported by the National UFA in one of our Fellowship clusters where I watched in amazement as pupils, who might once have been deemed to be ‘under achievers’, used their newly developed learning skills to take charge and lead groups of their peers through activities derived from their own ideas. I was fascinated by the depth of their personal reflections and their acute awareness of how their own feelings and actions impacted on their individual peers and their group as a whole.*



*This whole experience brought a sense of reality to my favourite of the core principles of the UFA:*

**“The unshakable belief in the potential of all to achieve success.”**

*This has been an amazing journey for me and I feel privileged to be part of what feels to me like a United Family for All. I also have a sneaking suspicion that this is only the beginning...watch this space.”*



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