



*Pembrokeshire College runs Learning for Living in partnership with Pembrokeshire Association for Voluntary Services (PAVS) in Haverfordwest*

On July 22nd 2005, the *Learning for Living* course in Pembrokeshire received a special award at the first ever social care accolades in Cardiff, a true reflection of the innovative and sustainable elements of *Learning for Living*.

Pembrokeshire College deliver the course via a blended approach, using the online learning materials alongside face-to-face group study mornings (one session per unit). The group sessions take place at PAVS due to its familiar and informal environment. Some carers access the online course from home and others use their local library or the computers at PAVS or Pembrokeshire College.

Pembrokeshire College are delighted with the feedback that has been provided so far. Some of the benefits highlighted by tutors and learners from taking the course include:

- They have grown in confidence and assertiveness.
- They have taken stock of existing knowledge and skills and have planned their next steps. For some that might mean returning to further education and for others it might mean looking for part time work.
- They felt a sense of direction in their lives again and a sense of achievement in completing a qualification that many felt could help them get back into paid employment.
- They also enjoyed the new experience of online learning, which encouraged them to use the Web more. Some of the carers will also go on to become mentors for other carers taking the course.

If you are thinking of running *Learning for Living* but the online nature of the course provides a challenge, Kate Hawkins recommends running it as a pilot to begin with. She found that people were patient and understanding once they had been told they were the first group of learners. She also said that the strong relationship between PAVS and Age Concern 'Silver Surfers' helped enormously.

Prior to running *Learning for Living*, Kate had no experience of online tutoring. However, she has found the practice to be very positive and fulfilling and says that the online nature of the course enables her to tutor learners anytime, anywhere.