

BRADFORD: *How hi-tech gift is helping unemployed youngsters*

Firm gives fresh hope to jobless

by **SARAH WALSH**

T&A Reporter

Young jobseekers facing discrimination for living on Bradford's Canterbury estate are being given a chance to get their foot on the ladder — thanks to chemical firm Allied Colloids.

The company, one of Bradford's major employers and based at Low Moor, donated two IBM computer terminals and a printer to Impact, a new charity working on the Canterbury estate.

People trying to find work describe themselves as living in 'Little Horton' rather than 'Canterbury estate' because the area suffers from a bad reputation among some employers.

Young people are now using the new equipment at Canterbury Community Centre to learn to draw up their CVs and write job application letters.

Impact worker Andrew Wilkinson said: "Some of the young people who come in have never heard of a CV. They don't know what one is."

"Youth unemployment is high in this area and it is fairly common for young people to have left school with no qualifications.

"They think they have nothing to offer to an employer — but by talking to them we find they do have skills, they are bright, they have a lot of potential and they are very keen and willing to find work."

Aaron Depledge, 16, one of the first to join the scheme, admitted: "I went to Buttershaw Upper School, but I used to get excluded all the time."

"I would really like to get a job — hopefully something in the motor vehicle trade."

Terry Davidson Page, also 16 and looking for work, added: "I'd like a job as a groundsman."

Nigel Delaney, of Impact, said he hoped other employers would follow the lead set by Allied Colloids by offering opportunities to people living on the Canterbury estate.

"Allied Colloids has helped us enor-



FINDING SKILLS:

Terry Davidson-Page, left, and Aaron Depledge with Impact trainer Andrew Wilkinson at Canterbury Community Centre

mously and we are very grateful. Unfortunately, there is high unemployment on the estate, but we have had a tremendous response from many local residents who are eager to receive training and be considered for good quality jobs."

He added: "We are seeking willing

companies who will work objectively with us to find realistic jobs for those eager residents.

"Over the next five years we will be working hard to reverse the stigmas associated with Canterbury."

More information is available from Andrew Wilkinson on (01274) 503500.