

Financial training For non financial staff



The financial training specialists

What are you doing today? (budgeting)

I was working at Brunel University last week, delivering some budgeting training.

Before breakfast I went for a short walk around the campus. 6:45 on a weekday morning in NW London, and there was almost no-one to be seen. Of course, the students were all in bed, where they'd remain for another hour at least!

Budgeting is all about what we do, and how we do it. Planning our budget means thinking about the future; about our ongoing objectives; and about the things we need to change and develop. The budget then becomes the financial cost of the resources we need to deliver our objectives (both the day to day expectations, and the ongoing change and development objectives).

So where do all those sleeping students come into all this?

Being asleep, they weren't doing anything; whereas we're always busy. But unless we're busy doing the right things, we may as well be asleep as well!

We'll be taken to task if we don't do the things that get measured, so those things happen. They include coming in within budget and hitting customer expectations (whether the "customer" is internal or external).

But it often doesn't include the change and development objectives. The things we need to do now to remain successful in the future.

They're not urgent, so we can put them off, but by the time they become urgent it's usually too late.

So what are your change and development objectives, and how will you ensure they happen?