

Formula One guru drives home the business and skills message to Leicestershire employers

Date of issue 5 February 2010

Ref em-16BusinessSkillsConferenceLeicestershire-feb2010

More than 300 employers heard about how skills and funding can play a key role in building stronger and more successful businesses from Formula One and Cosworth guru Mark Gallagher and business and skills advisers at a free conference this week.

At the '*Business and Skills Conference: Grow, Perform, Succeed*' in Nottingham (Monday 1 February), delegates heard from key business support agencies and employers about their experiences and the benefits of accessing Government funded services to develop the skills of their workforce and how this contributes to the regeneration of the local economy.

Keynote speaker Mark Gallagher, General Manager F1 Operations, shared his inspiration in leadership, motivation and teamwork and gave a fascinating insight into the world of top level motor sport, drawing parallels between the challenging, high speed environment of Formula One and the fast-paced business world of today.

One delegate, Anne Coleman, Executive Secretary at Albert Browne Ltd in Leicester, thought the event was very informative and Mark's speech was illuminating. She said: "As a company we have an active development

programme, we are committed to training and recognise the value it can bring to the business and the careers of our staff too.

“As we are relatively small it’s important we keep our costs down. The conference was a great way of keeping up to date with the latest Government funded schemes which we hope to tap into later this year.

“We have used Train to Gain Skills Brokers in the past to source appropriate courses for our employees which were found to be incredibly useful, so it was good to hear about other options that are available to us too.”

Albert Browne has been operating in Leicester for over 100 years and is a part of the Steris group - a global leader in infection prevention, contamination control, surgical and critical care technologies. The company based on the Hamilton Industrial Estate produce sterilisation process indicators for the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries

Speaking at the event, Mark Gallagher, General Manager of Formula One Operations at Cosworth, said: “Some may see Formula One as a glamorous industry to be in, but the issues we face are exactly the same as any other engineering or manufacturing business.

“Cosworth’s UK success is down to the way we train our staff and unleash their potential. We need a high level of skills in this industry which can be achieved through apprenticeships and by investing in training.

“And there is a wide range of skills initiatives available from the Government which can help businesses succeed and give young people and adults the chance to develop and grow in their careers too.”

Mark was joined by Government Office East Midlands' newly appointed Regional Director, Stephen Hillier, who explained how the region is at the forefront of jobs for the future and how young apprentices can boost profits and bring vibrancy, energy and fresh ideas into a business whilst securing our future labour market.

Other Leicestershire-based businesses in attendance included Leicester City Community Health Service, Pera International and Encore Personnel Services.

The event, which took place at the East Midlands Conference Centre, marked the start of National Apprenticeship Week and was delivered in partnership by the Learning and Skills Council, National Apprenticeship Service, Business Link East Midlands, East Midlands Business Forum, Jobcentre Plus and East Midlands Development Agency.

END

Photos of Mark and Stephen speaking at the event, and other generic images are available on request, please call the number below.

Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News & PR East Midlands. Media enquiries to Gaby Hateley on 0115 852 4357 or gaby.hateley@coi.gsi.gov.uk