

## Skills Pledge celebrates two years in Nottinghamshire

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A Nottinghamshire learning group who have supported over 350 community and voluntary organisations across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to effectively develop the skills of their employees, is supporting two years of the Skills Pledge.

Since its launch in June 2007 the Skills Pledge has already helped 98,500 employees as 559 Nottinghamshire employers have made the public commitment to invest in the skills of their workforce. Nationally more than 17,000 employers have made the Skills Pledge, which means almost 6.5million employees now have the opportunity to realise their potential and increase their skills by undertaking training leading to a recognised qualification.

Enable, the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Learning and Skills Consortium, was established in 2003 to help voluntary organisations and community groups to meet the learning, skills and economic development needs within the communities of Nottinghamshire.

After making the Skills Pledge in March 2009, a further 15 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations have made the Pledge, including Notts Hospice, Mencap Care Centre, Hope Services, The Dyslexia Association, Nottinghamshire Deaf Society, and Vocolls.

# News Release



Don Hayes, Chief Executive, Enable, said:

Leading learning and skills

“We are committed to ensuring we can make a significant contribution to the national and local learning and skills of adults and young people. Training is vital within the voluntary and community sector to ensure local people get the skills to feel confident and happy in their work and to ensure our local communities get the staff and quality of work and care that they deserve.

“The Skills work we have done with different firms has reaped a host of benefits for local communities which includes things like higher staff morale and staff retention, reduced absence and better communication. “

The Dyslexia Association, signed the Skills Pledge in March, after receiving information from Enable.

The organisation employ six staff and a number of associates who are currently training in Counselling, Literacy and Information Advice and Guidance.

Dee Caunt, Business Development Manager at The Dyslexia Association said:

“We believe that being a supportive employer by helping employee’s access appropriate support and skills development is vitality important if you want to have a well skilled, productive and happy workforce. This is why we have signed the Skills Pledge. It’s our commitment to everyone who works at The Dyslexia Association to develop their skills so that they can do their job to the best of their ability”

Sara Fox has been the Chief Executive's PA at Enable for one year, providing <sup>Leading learning and skills</sup> administrative support to the Enable team. She is undertaking an Apprenticeship following the signing of the Skills Pledge.

Sara said:

“The Apprenticeship is helping me to learn new skills to gain the qualifications that will prove my competencies, demonstrate my abilities, improve my confidence and will further my career”

Sue Peake, Skills Development Director – Strategy, Learning and Skills Council East Midlands, said:

“We are delighted that so many employers have made the Skills Pledge. Skills are vitally important to any organisation but it's more important than ever in the current climate for individuals, for their future employability and for success of organisations throughout the UK.

“The work Enable has been doing with voluntary and community groups across Nottinghamshire will be of real benefit not only to their staff but also to the communities across the area that benefit from them.

“By making the Skills Pledge Enable have committed to ensuring their workforce receive the training and development necessary to keep their skills up to date in such an important sector.”

**To find out more about the Skills Pledge call 0800 015 5545 or visit**

**<http://inourhands.lsc.gov.uk/employers-pledge.html>**

1. **The Skills Pledge** is a public commitment made by the leader of an organisation <sup>Leading learning and skills</sup> confirming that they will develop the skills of their employees, including all of those lacking **basic skills or a first full Level 2 qualification**. It is a promise that, through training, they will work to boost the productivity and efficiency of their organisation and realise the potential of their employees by developing their basic skills and working towards relevant, valuable qualifications. Level 2 is the minimum standard, however as understanding skills needs and priorities is the key to an organisation's success, employers are encouraged to upskill their people to the level required by their industry and their specific organisational needs.
- Research shows that one of the most significant benefits from making the Skills Pledge is the public demonstration of an organisation's commitment to valuing employees
  - Employers see the Skills Pledge as a valuable way to increase productivity, retain and develop their staff and enhance their reputation
  - By developing tailored action plans, the Skills Pledge enables organisations to take control of training and focus on the skills that they need to succeed
  - Making and implementing the Skills Pledge enables organisations to drive forward one comprehensive, strategic training programme for the entire workforce, resulting in cost and time efficiencies
  - By making the Skills Pledge, employers are driving a culture change in the workplace, which improves morale and provides staff with the opportunity to improve their wider careers and life prospects

## 2. Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for

everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

**Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News & PR**

**East Midlands. T: 0115 9712787. E: [Helen.clarke@coi.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.clarke@coi.gsi.gov.uk)**