

TRAIN TO GAIN CELEBRATES TWO YEARS OF SUCCESS IN LINCOLNSHIRE & RUTLAND

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A Lincolnshire social enterprise which provides training to the local community is endorsing the Train to Gain anniversary, as the flagship service marks its second year of helping to boost the nation's skills.

Lincoln's Priory Centre joined the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in calling on even more employers to take advantage of the training service, which helps firms get the best from their staff by identifying and helping meet skills needs. Seventy eight per cent of employers say that they would recommend Train to Gain to other employers.

Since its launch in 2006, Train to Gain has helped over 1,000 employers in Lincolnshire and Rutland get training, and over 4,800 learners have started a qualification with help from funding of over £4.4million.

An evaluation published this year revealed that some 43 per cent of people who had completed their training reported having received a pay rise, and 30 per cent reported having had promotion. Funding for Train to Gain will increase from £520 million in 2007-08 to over £1 billion by 2010-11.

Lincoln's Priory Centre has followed the centre's 15th Century tradition, by ensuring their six staff and the manager have undertaken NVQs, through Boston College Consortium, with help from Train to Gain, to ensure they can better run the centre and can speak from first hand experience to people seeking training about how easily NVQs fit in with a day to day job.

Dale Laughton, Manager, said:

"I'm a firm believer in the value of training. 'Education for All' has been part of the ethos of the Priory Centre since the 15th century and we try to live by that philosophy today by providing all sorts of community and business training courses.

"I see people come to our centre and leave with a brighter outlook thanks to training. But when it comes to accessing training for myself and my staff, then we need a little help as we are a charitable organisation and any funding we get goes towards the local community. But with help from the Train to Gain service I've been able to put theory into practice to make the Priory Centre run more efficiently."

Tony Belmega, Skills Development Director, Train to Gain from the LSC East Midlands said:

"Many Lincolnshire and Rutland employers realise the value of up-skilling their workforce and realise it is one of the most important things they can do to raise the value of their business and to 'future proof' themselves as best they can against the potential impact of the credit crunch. Investing in the skills of their people will make it easier for employers to respond to economic challenges and also ensure they can take advantage of future growth opportunities.

“Only two years in and Train to Gain has already helped over 1,000 businesses across Lincolnshire and Rutland. Now more than ever, employers need to make sure their staff are highly skilled and ready to face current economic challenges and I would urge other companies to take advantage of the funding, advice and training on offer through the service.”

Employers wanting more information on Train to Gain can either call 0800 015 55 45 or visit traintogain.gov.uk.

- ENDS -

Notes to editors

1. Train to Gain

Managed by the Learning and Skills Council, Train to Gain is the government’s flagship service to support employers in England, of all sizes and in all sectors, to improve the skills of their employees, unlock talent and drive improved business performance. A key element of Train to Gain is the skills brokerage service which offers free impartial advice, and helps find the best training solution from high quality and responsive training providers to meet business needs.

To help ensure that the Train to Gain offer meets the needs of every sector, DIUS and the LSC has developed ‘sector skills compacts’ with employers in key sectors of our economy which tailor the Train to Gain offer to their specific needs and circumstances. Compacts have already been agreed with Sector Skills Councils for five sectors Semta, ConstructionSkills, People 1st Proskills and Skills for Justice, together worth some £440m over three years.

Train to Gain has supported over 570,000 learners to begin their learning programmes. Over 254,000 learners have achieved a full level 2 qualification. Over 16,000 learners have full level 3 achievements.

To find out more about how Train to Gain can help, employers should call 0800 015 55 45 or visit traintogain.gov.uk. Alternatively, individuals and employers can access the information they need on skills via a dedicated phone line and website. The phone number is 0800 011 30 30 or website: lsc.gov.uk/inourhands

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 and PR. For media interviews or for further information contact Helen Clarke at COI News and PR on 0115 9712787