

Redundancy help at hand across the East of England

Four colleges and training providers across the East of England are to get extra Government funding for training to help people, who have lost their jobs or are facing redundancy, back into work.

Colleges and other training providers in the region (see notes to editors) will get a share of £100m that the Government and European Social Fund are making available as part of a Response to Redundancy package to fund high-quality training places for up to 70,000 people in England.

The money will help people who are currently under notice of redundancy or have recently lost their jobs, offering them free, flexible training to boost their skills so they can move quickly back into work.

Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs Kevin Brennan said:

“We will not stand by and leave people without support. That is why we’re investing £100m to fund high-quality training for unemployed people across the country.

“Colleges and training providers are at the front line in helping people back into work, particularly during a recession, and are playing a key role in building a stronger Britain. This funding will open up access to training and new skills, opening doors to a new or better job.

“These days providers know what local businesses want and can teach the skills that people in their area need to take up jobs as soon as they become available.”

Minister for Regional Economic Development Coordination, Rosie Winterton said:

“These colleges and training providers will be able to offer a shot in the arm for people in the East of England who are facing uncertain times in their careers and working lives. We want to provide real help to people who have just lost their jobs or are at risk of doing so.

“Our primary aim is to keep the time people spend out of work to a minimum while making the return to work a stepping stone to a more skilled future. I hope people across the East of England who are facing redundancy or who are out of work will take full advantage of these training opportunities.”

In the East of England, four colleges and training providers will use funding to pay for short courses to update existing skills or start to retrain in new occupational areas. Where possible, accredited units of training will be carried forward and put toward a future qualification.

Everyone who trains through this programme will also receive an individually-tailored package of careers advice, help with searching for a job and guidance on job applications.

Over 100 colleges and training providers in England have been chosen to offer Response to Redundancy to ensure that all regions benefit. The programme will ensure that support is available to people under notice of redundancy, those recently made redundant or, in some areas, those who have been unemployed for some time.

This investment, combined with £83 million announced in January 2009 to train the longer-term unemployed, should help over 100,000 people to get and keep jobs.

The Learning and Skills Council will work alongside Jobcentre Plus, colleges and training providers to deliver this training.

Notes to Editors

1. The 4 colleges and training providers across the East of England to share approximately £7.6m are:

Careers Enterprise Ltd, Milton Keynes

Seetec Business Technology Centre Ltd, Hockley, Essex

The Consultancy Home Counties Ltd, Watford

Hertfordshire Careers Service, Letchworth, Hertfordshire

2. The £100 million cash boost to help Britain's unemployed was announced on 14th October 2008 by DWP and the then DIUS. The additional money came from the European Social Fund and Train To Gain-funded support. For a link to this press

notice see:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases/unemployed

3. In addition, the Government is putting in place longer and more substantial packages for people who need to retrain in another occupation. In January the Government announced £83 million to offer training places to people unemployed for six months, with 75,000 places provided nationally. For a link to this press notice see:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases/back_to_work

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