

THREE QUARTERS OF PEOPLE IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND ARE PLANNING A CAREER CHANGE

Travelling Careers Advice booth launches in London

Date of issue	31 th July 2009
Publication number	612
Embargo until	4 th August 2009

Three quarters (86 per cent) of people living in the East of England are planning to change their career, however 13 per cent suspect they never will as they are unsure about what they really want, the Careers Advice Service reveals today.

In research released today 77 per cent think the best way to keep their career moving forward is through gaining a new qualification. Other reasons for people wanting to change career include a desire to learn new things (60 per cent) and earn more money (39 per cent). One in three (33 per cent) claim that they are unsure of their career goals and aspirations.

For adults looking for advice on their jobs, the Learning and Skills Council is launching a travelling Careers Advice booth that will be based at London Bridge Railway Station, today from 7am through to 7pm. The booth has Careers Advice Service and nextstep advisers on hand to help passers-by identify their career goals.

Adults looking for advice on their jobs, training, or would like to find out about funding options and ways to get started in a new career, can call the Careers Advice Service for free and impartial help.

Jon Gamble, the LSC's Director for Adults and Lifelong Learning, with responsibility for the Careers Advice Service says: "The Careers Advice booth is a great way of giving

people the opportunity to meet Careers Advisers and get first hand advice on getting into work or progressing further in their careers.

“Over the next 10 years, it will become increasingly difficult to get a job without any basic qualifications^[1] and this campaign will help to raise awareness and provide valuable information about the accessibility of skills training and acquiring the relevant qualifications, meaning that there has never been a better time for individuals to actively consider learning new skills, or even building on their existing skills.”

The travelling Careers Advice booth will be visiting a number of towns across England over the summer.

The Careers Advice Service provides free, impartial and confidential advice for those interested in learning a new skill; who want to find information on different courses or get further details of the funding options open to them.

To speak to a Careers Advice Service adviser call **0800 100 900** or visit www.direct.gov.uk/careersadvice.

-ENDS-

For all media enquiries or further information on the Careers Advice Service or the Learning and Skills Council please contact:

Nick Jones, Hill and Knowlton, T: 020 7973 5961
E: nick.jones@hillandknowlton.com
Kate Lupton, Hill and Knowlton, T: 020 7413 3769
E: kate.lupton@hillandknowlton.com

For the LSC Press Office, please contact:

Natasha Grocock, LSC, T: 02476 82 3640
E: natasha.grocock@lsc.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

^[1] Working Futures 2004 – 2014, Qualifications Report, Wilson and Bosworth, 2006

*The research for the Careers Advice Service was carried out by Opinion Matters. Sample: 1007 adults in England who have not yet retired.

The Careers Advice Service was formerly known as Learndirect Careers Advice, and is now part of the Learning and Skills Council who are responsible for funding impartial information and advice services for adults in England.

About the Careers Advice Service

- The Careers Advice Service is open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm on freephone 0800 100 900.
- Information is also available online through the website at www.direct.gov.uk/careersadvice
- Careers advisers provide a free, impartial and confidential telephone advice service to people looking to choose a new career or get back into the workplace
- The Careers Advice Service offers information on almost 1 million courses from thousands of learning providers nationwide
- The Careers Advice Service has taken over 9.4 million calls since 1999 from people wanting careers information, advice and guidance

Careers Tools and Services

The Careers Advice Service offers a variety of tools to help you learn new skills, get back into the workforce or change jobs. The service also offers learning advice and assistance on a wide variety of issues, such as:

- Childcare issues
- People with disabilities
- Costs of learning
- Returning to work
- Redundancy
- Help with reading, writing and maths
- Decision-making

CV Builder

The Careers Advice Service website (www.direct.gov.uk/careersadvice) has an online CV-building tool that can help you make the most of your abilities and experience, and tailor your CV for the job you want. The CV-builder involves you answering a series of questions, filling in your details and talking about your interests, resulting in a bespoke CV based on your responses.

nextstep face-to-face services

The nextstep service offers free face to face careers information and advice to adults aged 20 plus. The service is also available to adults aged 18 and 19 who have been referred to nextstep by Jobcentre Plus. nextstep provides help and support in updating skills ,training, learning and work. The service is available throughout England. The nextstep advisers are able to provide careers information and advice based on detailed knowledge of the learning and work opportunities available locally. nextstep maintains close links with the Careers Advice Service, and there are referrals between the two organisations to ensure that the customer receives the best possible service. Details of your nearest nextstep centre can be found at <http://nextstep.direct.gov.uk/>

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.

The LSC offers a host of support services to help those who are already in the workforce, or are about to enter the workforce, to gain the skills they need to succeed, secure their future or grow their income. For example, you could receive the Adult Learning Grant (ALG) for your decided course, a grant designed as a helping hand for adults thinking about learning but worried about the financial barriers standing in their way. ALG provides low income adult learners with up to £30 a week to help with the extra costs of learning. Since the grant became available, over 43,000 people have received ALG. You could also access training at work through the LSC's flagship programme for employers, Train to Gain.