



26 March 07

Businesses in Essex to benefit from innovative new training opportunity for young workers

Connexions and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in Essex are launching an innovative new training programme called 'Train for your Future'. The programme is designed to help businesses employing 16-17 year-olds who are not currently engaged in training, by providing accredited, fully funded training.

To mark the launch of *Train for your Future*, a series of road-shows are being held at major shopping centres across the county during the first week of April.

All businesses employing 16 to 17 year-olds are eligible to take advantage of *Train for your Future*, regardless of their type or size. There is also no limit to the number of young people per employer entitled to access the programme.

Training advisers from Connexions will work with the employer and the young person to ensure training meets both the needs of the company and the employee. They will also mentor the young people, providing an on-programme support and monitoring service.

Companies investing in training for their employees have been shown to reap substantial rewards, with better motivated employees and higher levels of retention leading to greater productivity.

Janice Logie, Area Director, LSC Essex says, "We know from our own research that training is a key factor for employees in the workplace and leads to greater commitment and productivity. Train for your Future gives young workers the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and skills, earning a brighter future for themselves as well as for their employers."

Lorraine Heywood, Project Manager from Connexions says, "*Train for your Future* is an exciting opportunity for us to offer support to both young people and businesses which will make a significant difference to their success."

To find out more about *Train for your Future*, employers and young people are invited to come along to one of the April road shows, visit our website at www.trainforyourfuture.co.uk or call free on 0808 143 1617 or email info@trainingforyourfuture.co.uk.

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For further information:

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Notes to editors:

Launch events

On Thursday 5 April 2007, our Train for the Future stands will be at:

- Colchester: Culver Street West, between M&S and the library
- Basildon: Eastgate Shopping Centre, outside Asda
- Harlow: Harvey Shopping Centre, in front of H Samuel
- Thurrock: Lakeside Shopping Centre, at L15 (ground floor, central atrium).

Train for your Future

Train for your future is a new initiative that has been launched by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on behalf of the DfES to provide accredited, fully-funded training to 16 and 17 year olds in Essex.

There are four broad categories of learning on offer:

- Skills for life – including literacy, numeracy and IT
- Further education – such as BTEC, C&G qualifications
- Vocational learning – Apprenticeships and Advance Apprenticeships
- Job skills – NVQ levels 1,2 and 3 with Key Skills

Connexions, the national government service that works with young people is delivering the Train for your Future initiative in partnership with the LSC. Training advisers work with employers to ensure the training fits the needs of the company to maximise business benefits and mentor and support young people with their career plan.

Connexions is an information, advice, guidance and support service for all 13 to 19 year olds (and up to 25 for those with additional needs). All young people have access to Connexions whether they are at school, in further or higher education, in training or employment, unemployed or doing voluntary work. Essex, Southend & Thurrock Connexions (EST Connexions) delivers services across the areas covered by Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Council and there are Connexions centres in most towns across the county. For more information visit www.estconnexions.co.uk <<http://www.estconnexions.co.uk/>>

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

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.

www.trainforyourfuture.co.uk  **Train for your future**