



East of England Development Agency



Leading learning and skills

11 March 2009

Dear

Train to Gain Brokerage Transition and Continuity

As you may know the brokerage service for Train to Gain is currently delivered under contract by The Consultancy Home Counties Ltd (TCHC) and East of England Brokerage Consortium (EEBC).

This service was recently re-tendered as a single regional contract, which was won by TCHC. From the start of April 2009 they have been contracted to deliver the whole Train to Gain brokerage service across all six counties of the East of England.

We are therefore writing to inform you of arrangements being put in place for how work currently being done by EEBC will be transferred to TCHC for the start of the new contract.

The most important point is that the skills brokerage service carried out by Train to Gain brokers will continue without any break. In many cases, relationships currently in place between employers and providers and brokers will remain unchanged.

Work done by brokers

Within the continuing Train to Gain brokerage service, employers and providers will encounter three potential situations:

1. Where they have already been working with TCHC there will be no change to that relationship.
2. Where they have been working with a particular broker employed by EEBC and that broker transfers to TCHC, they will see no obvious change.
3. Where they have been working with EEBC and they are assigned a new broker, TCHC and EEBC will ensure that the change does not result in a break in service. TCHC will ensure that all employers and providers are aware who their named contact is and that any information on handover is provided accurately and in a timely fashion.

Work with Stakeholders

Representatives of EEBC and TCHC will be meeting over the next few weeks to identify work to be done with stakeholders as part of the transfer of the Train to Gain

brokerage service. This will include transfer of relationships, protocols and other linkages stakeholders have with Train to Gain brokerage.

Please note that although EEBC will not be delivering the Train to Gain skills brokerage function after 31 March 2009, they will still be delivering skills development and other services and products into the market in the East of England, including the European Social Fund brokerage contract for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). This contract includes referrals to existing Train to Gain providers across the region.

Changes at the higher level

The current Train to Gain brokerage contracts are managed by LSC, but from 1 April the new contract with TCHC will be managed by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). LSC and EEDA have been working together closely throughout the last year to ensure a smooth transition of the skills brokerage service between the two organisations. Also, as from 1 April 2009 skills brokerage will be part of a new integrated brokerage service. This means that all brokerage – for business support (currently delivered by EEIDB Ltd) and for skills (delivered by TCHC) will be delivered in an increasingly integrated way under the Business Link brand.

If you have any questions on the content of this letter please contact david.sellings@lsc.gov.uk or businesssupport@eeda.org.uk and we will do our best to answer your question.

Yours sincerely,



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