



# Essex Skills Pledge Club



Leading learning and skills

## Spring 2009

### Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008

The first meeting of the founder members group was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December and an outline agreement on the terms of reference was agreed

Decisions were made about how the Club should be developed and we will be continuing to work on these. The highlights are contained within this newsletter

Currently around 150 Essex-based organisations have signed up to the Skills Pledge; of these, however, only about half have staff enrolled on formal training courses

This mismatch drives the main aim of the Skills Pledge Club:

**“To encourage all employers in Essex to make a public commitment to training and skills improvement”**

### Objectives

To drive this aim and to make the Skills Pledge more than just a paper exercise we have agreed a number of objectives and responsibilities. These are:

#### **To raise the profile of the Skills Pledge and recognise its' importance**

We will do this by arranging high profile events aimed at a wide audience within the Essex business community

#### **To make the Skills Pledge aspirational and so encourage more employers to sign up**

We will work towards a situation whereby existing members of the Club will offer a preference to other providers and partners that have also demonstrated their commitment to staff development by joining the Club

#### **To form an umbrella group for raising standards and improving training**

Although the Skills Pledge is linked to Train to Gain we want the Club to be a vehicle to drive up awareness of, and participation in, all forms of staff learning and development

To this end we will work with training providers to encourage them to develop the products that employers really need

#### **To be a conduit for communication with the LSC National Office**

Regular reports of meetings and events will be communicated using existing marketing tools both internally and externally. In addition the Club will form part of a national network of groups actively voicing employer's concerns and suggestions

### Membership

We have discussed how we can make the Club more meaningful and aspirational. To help to drive this we will initially create a two-tier process for membership

At the Associate level and organisation that has signed the Skills Pledge and can evidence that they have placed staff on LSC recognised courses will be eligible to apply for Associate membership

This will give them the right to attend meetings and events and to receive regular updates on changes in eligibility and legislation

Applications for Associate Membership will be considered and approved at the quarterly meetings by the Full Members

Applicants for Full membership will need to demonstrate that they are committed to the principles of the Skills Pledge by either:

- Introducing another organisation to the Skills Pledge
- Placing 50 or more members of staff on LSC recognised courses or
- Showing that 20% of their staff have been on LSC recognised courses in the past 12 months

Full membership will entitle the member to use the 'plaque' emblem on their letterheads and to qualify for annual awards

## Our First Event

This will be held at the Radisson Hotel on 30<sup>th</sup> April between 08:00 and 11:00. Drinks and snacks will be served on arrival.

The meeting will be addressed by Barbara Follett (to be confirmed), Ken Bromage from FEDEX and also James Averdieck of Gu fame. There will be the opportunity to talk to training providers about their products and services and to Founder members about their commitment and where they see the Club developing.

This will be an informal and light introduction to the Skills Pledge Club and we will encourage every attendee to bring along at least one business partner, provider or colleague who has not signed up to the Skills Pledge as yet.

There will also be the opportunity to sign up on the day and also to look at some promotional materials that we are developing with our PR agency a:live communication

If you would like to attend the event, either as a Skills Pledge holder or as a guest, please contact Phil Warner.

## The Big Skill

Over the next few weeks there will be a series of events promoting the '[Big Skill](#)' ([www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastofEngland/Aboutus/bigskill/](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastofEngland/Aboutus/bigskill/)) which will culminate in a Skills Open Day and awards ceremony in Chelmsford town centre and the Shire Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

For more information or if you are interested in nominating staff for awards or showcasing training events please contact Phil Warner

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on 11th March 2009, 10am, at Redwing House. If you feel that you meet the requirements for Associate Membership and would like to attend, please email Phil Warner

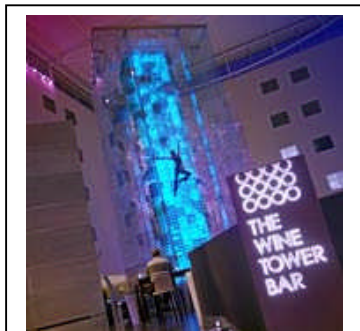
## Southend to Sign Up

On 6th March Southend-on-Sea Borough Council will be formally signing the Skills Pledge

The plan is for the meeting to be at Southend Civic Centre 8.00 start with a breakfast buffet.

Attendees will have the opportunity to network and will then move to the Council Chamber for a presentation by Paul Greenhalgh (Corporate Director Children and Learning) regarding Skills and Prosperity in Southend. At the end of the presentation Rob Tinlin (CEO) will sign the Skills Pledge

This will also be an opportunity for other employers in Southend to sign the Skills Pledge



SAS Radisson - Stansted

## Finally

Congratulations to Thurrock for winning the Regional Council Workforce Development Award. This prestigious award, contested between the 49 Councils in the Eastern Region, was given to Thurrock for:

- It's commitment to the Skills Pledge which means raising every employee to level 2 standard
- Having an established group on Skills for Life programme
- Raising literacy and numeracy levels
- Taking 67 people through NVQ L2 and L3 programmes in 2008
- Having 104 people currently on NVQ and Modern Apprenticeship programmes

For further information contact:

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