



Essex Skills Pledge Club



Leading learning and skills

Summer 2009

Meeting 11th March 2009

The spring meeting of the founder members group was held on 11th March and a few new members joined us.

In particular we welcomed the Skills for Logistics team represented by Daryl Keyworth and Shane Corbyn.

We agreed an outline membership structure which has been further developed to create Gold, Silver and Bronze levels of membership. This will be discussed further at the next meeting in June

Paul Butler from the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), gave a presentation on the structure and mission of NAS; due to be launched on 1st April 2009

A DVD of the upcoming Big Skill awards was shown

We also discussed a strapline for the Skills Pledge Club. This has yet to be finalised as:

“Committed to rewarding and developing staff. Committed to the future”

Launch Event

The Essex Skills Pledge Club breakfast, organised by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Essex, was held at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Stansted. Bringing together small, medium and large employers from the county, guests were urged to invest in skills by an impressive line up of keynote speakers, including Janice Logie, area director for the LSC Essex, James Averdieck founder of Gü, the high quality desserts and puddings company, and Ken Bromage, managing director of UK Operations for FedEx. They gave business reasons for investing in skills to help survive the recession and achieve a competitive position for when the economy recovers.

The Skills Pledge is an LSC initiative, launched in July 2007, to encourage businesses to make a public and voluntary commitment to workplace learning and skills development for their staff.



Since then, over 150 Essex organisations have taken the pledge, including FedEx, BAA, Essex County Council, Thurrock Council, Ford,

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and many of the local NHS and Primary Care Trusts. LSC Essex aims to treble this number over the next year, and has created the Essex Skills Pledge Club to bring like-minded businesses together to inspire other employers to sign up.

In addition to the Skills Pledge, the uptake of training and apprenticeships in Essex has had a marked increase in the last year. There are currently over 4,000 adult apprenticeship learners and 3,000 young people. Demand from all sectors for additional places is continuing to grow and the new National Apprenticeship Scheme, which launched on 1st April 2009, is working with employers to create even more opportunities, especially for 16-18 year olds.

Janice Logie, area director for the LSC Essex comments; “We’ve called upon the Essex Skills Pledge



Club members to act as 'skills' ambassadors in the county, encouraging and inspiring other businesses to make a public commitment to developing their workforce through skill development. Investing in training has never been more important, and we urge local employers to recognise this in the face of the recession so Essex can be in a competitive position when the economy recovers."



At the event Janice Logie passed a special presentation Skills Pledge baton on to Ken Bromage of FedEx in recognition of their commitment to training, reinforcing the message that staff development and encouraging learning at work can have a huge impact on the success of the business and local economy.

14 organisations signed up to the Skills Pledge on the day and all of those present received a plaque to mark the event. The enthusiasm of those attending was very encouraging and it is hoped to be able to repeat the event next year.

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/)

which will culminate in a Skills Open Day and awards ceremony in Chelmsford town centre and the Shire Hall on 11th June.

The event will feature appearances from Dave Monks of Radio Essex and be hosted by Ray Stubbs. During the day there will be a range of skills based entertainment including:

- Search for an Essex Star

- Dance displays
- Keep Fit displays and training
- Plus displays from the Libraries Childrens Entertainment Team, Fire Service and Royal Military Police

For more information please contact Phil Warner

Central Canvey Primary Care Centre

On 8th June the baton of the Skills Pledge will be passed to Dr Mahesh Kamdar at the formal opening of this new 'state of the art' surgery on Canvey Island.

The surgery has been sponsored by the South East Essex PCT NHS Trust and the Mayor of Castle Point has been invited to represent the Council



Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on 10th June 2009, 10am, at Redwing House.

The agenda will include:

- An update on Apprenticeships
- An update on funding for Train to Gain and Apprenticeships
- Refinement of the membership criteria
- Development of the Skills Pledge 'toolkit'

If you would like to attend, please contact Phil Warner, as below

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