

The logo for the Learning Skills Council (LSC) is displayed in white on a black rectangular background. It features a stylized white chevron symbol pointing to the right, followed by the letters 'LSC' in a bold, sans-serif font.

**>LSC**

Leading learning and skills



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**Gillian Miller**  
**Regional Skills Director, North East**

**Train to Gain:**

**Performance and role in the region's  
response to the economic downturn**

# Purpose of the event

To raise awareness and understanding of:

- ❖ Train to Gain “new flexibilities” (units)
- ❖ The role of Train to Gain in responding to the economic downturn
- ❖ The complementary support which is available for individuals and employers
- ❖ Update re. procurement and capacity building

# Setting the scene

- ❖ Train to Gain: Performance to date
- ❖ Economic downturn: North East response

# Train to Gain: Performance (1)

- ❖ 2007/8 full academic year data now available
- ❖ “Punching above our weight” (4% population)
- ❖ 20,000 starts out of a national total 346,000
- ❖ 14,000 achievements out of 187,000 nationally
- ❖ Cumulative total achievements (to end of 07/8 AY) was higher in absolute terms than three other regions

# Train to Gain: Performance (2)

- ❖ Latest 08/9 AY data available is Period 4 (Nov)
- ❖ Latest in month = 3160 starts (1870 in P4 07/8)
- ❖ Exceeding – in absolute terms – four other regions plus National Employer Service
- ❖ Average national increase (year on year) of 25%
- ❖ North East increase is 70%

# Train to Gain: Performance (3)

- ❖ 08/9 AY to P4 - NE 14,440 starts compared to national total of 200,800
- ❖ Already (to P4) at 75% of 07/8 AY starts
- ❖ Achievements 50% higher
- ❖ NE Budget 08/9 has already been increased

# Key Messages



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- ❖ We will continue to vary your contracts up **or down** subject to actual performance
- ❖ We are continuing to manage 70/30 L2 and 80/20 L3 ratios at regional (not provider) level
- ❖ Efforts to raise demand (eg. NECC event 28/1; RDA/SAM manager and stakeholder briefings)
- ❖ And the key role of TtG in response to the ***economic downturn***.....

# Economic Downturn: North East (1)

- ❖ Finance sector first
- ❖ Housing construction
- ❖ Durham badly hit at first
- ❖ Now covers all sectors, sizes, locations
- ❖ Public sector job losses also rising

# Economic Downturn: North East (2)

- ❖ Job vacancies down 12%
- ❖ Manufacturing vacancies down 30%
- ❖ Employment rate lowest in GB (70%)
- ❖ Rapid rise in white collar job losses
- ❖ Claimant count up 35% in year
- ❖ Durham numbers up nearly two thirds
- ❖ Sales and orders down; workforce numbers down, investment forecasts down

# Economic Downturn: North East (3)

There are some positives too.....

- ❖ Job creation: Cleveland Bridge/Darlington; Tesco/Consett; Student Loads Company/D'ton; various Call Centres
- ❖ Exporters benefiting from the fall of sterling (particularly those whose key markets are beyond USA and Europe – eg. Middle East)
- ❖ Domestic tourism/hospitality also benefits from exchange rate fall

# Economic Downturn: North East (4)

But other challenges

- ❖ JCP experiencing mismatch between vacancies and client preferences
- ❖ Large numbers of newly redundant workers with high(er) level skills
- ❖ Ongoing credit pressures/restricted access to finance – coupled with low confidence

# Skills and Employment



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## Response Group

- ❖ Reports to Public Sector Economy Forum/RSP
- ❖ Regional Minister (Nick Brown MP)
- ❖ RDA, JCP, LSC and GoNE
- ❖ 4 Themes
  - Resilience
  - Redundancy/Redeployment
  - Recruitment and retention
  - Readiness for the upturn
- ❖ Mapping and gapping
- ❖ Underpinning: intelligence and communications

# The four themes



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- ❖ **Resilience** – support for businesses to retain markets, productivity and skills throughout the downturn
- ❖ **Redundancy/Redeployment** focussing on measures to support people affected and move as many from a job, into another job
- ❖ **Recruitment and Retention** – direct support for swift entry/re-entry into work and supporting progression
- ❖ **Readiness for the upturn** – Not losing sight of longer term regional ambition, priorities, opportunities

# Resilience

- ❖ Key role of TtG core offer (including new SME flexibilities) alongside wider offer of Business Support
- ❖ Business Link is the key/central access point (although not the only way into Train to Gain....)

# Redundancy/redeployment

- ❖ Intelligence: HR1, Business Link, SAM network
- ❖ Coordinated response group arrangements: JCP, LSC, BENE, Next Step, Local Authorities
- ❖ Skills transfer analysis, benefits advice, careers information and advice (nextstep), jobs fairs
- ❖ Support for retraining including: TtG core offer (NB. Flexibilities re. redundancy); BENE Skills Solutions; JCP Rapid Response

# Recruitment and retention



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- ❖ Regional Employability Framework (REF) – all about the journey back into sustainable employment
- ❖ Local Employment Partnerships
- ❖ Pre-employment training (eg. JCP/LSC ESF “Routeways”; LSC Employability Skills programme) and soon....the Train to Gain pre-employment offer
- ❖ .....plus progression once in a job (Train to Gain core offer)
- ❖ Stop press: new support for 6mth unemployed including additional pre-employment training places and £1000 per person/employer “golden hellos”

# Readiness for the Upturn



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- ❖ Identifying and focussing on key growth sectors
- ❖ Preparing people for a career, not just a job (eg. sector routeways approach)
- ❖ Looking ahead to the labour force of the future (Nb. Concerns re. NEET and falling demand for apprentices in the 16-18 age group)
- ❖ Higher level skills and talent retention (“Professional” and “Executive”)

# Who to call?



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For businesses wanting advice and to understand what help and support is available including free business health checks, online business support and access to finance:

Call Business Link on 0845 600 9006

or visit

[www.businesslink.gov.uk/northeast](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/northeast)

# Who to call?



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For people who are in work, but may be at risk of, or worried about possible redundancy, for free confidential face to face advice on changing jobs and updating skills:

Call Next Steps on 0800 027 7944

or visit

[www.nextstepnortheast.org.uk](http://www.nextstepnortheast.org.uk)

# Who to call?



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For those who have been made redundant or who are out of work, for free confidential support to get back to work quickly, update skills and help with job search:

Call Jobcentre Plus on 0845 606 0234

or visit

[www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)



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Regional Skills Director

LSC North East