

CUMBRIA COMPANY CELEBRATES TRAINING SUCCESS AS TRAIN TO GAIN CELEBRATES ITS SECOND BIRTHDAY

Cumbria company celebrates success as one of 100,000 companies to benefit from the Skills Brokerage Service.

Date of issue 9 October 2008

Publication number NWR - 393

Workington based Past Times Trading is celebrating the success of a training service that has just signed up its 100,000th company as it helps to provide businesses with the skills they need to deliver results.

Past Times Trading is the warehouse operation that supplies the national chain of Past Times gift shops, managing stock levels and delivery for 70 stores across the UK. An efficient warehousing and distribution system is essential so the company turned to Train to Gain to address their training requirements and assist staff in achieving their full potential.

Since its launch in 2006, Train to Gain has helped more than 570,000 employees in England get training and over 291,000 learners have achieved a qualification. An evaluation published this year revealed that 43 per cent of people who had completed their training reported having received a pay rise and 30 per cent reported having had promotion. Funding for Train to Gain will increase from £520 million in 2007-08 to over £1 billion by 2010-11.

Debbie Reynolds, Warehouse Manager at Past Times Trading, said: "Because the service has had such a positive effect on the company, we're currently looking to develop more of the team using Train to Gain.

“Staff can improve their skills and gain a nationally recognised qualification whilst working, ensuring that our workforce becomes both more skilled and more motivated. Plus the training provided is heavily subsidised. What more could any employer ask for?”

Kirsty Evans, Skills Development Director at the Learning and Skills Council in the North West, which manages Train to Gain in the region said: “We know that 78 per cent of employers say that they would recommend Train to Gain to other employers. This endorsement proves that the service is effective, delivers results and makes sound business sense.

“In order to perform well, every business needs trained staff who can work to the best of their ability. Investment in staff not only leads to greater productivity but to an increase in staff morale and employee retention.

“We would urge every company in Cumbria to address their training needs, just like Past Times has done, and consider how best their training requirements can be met.”

ENDS

All media enquiries please contact:

LSC

Luisa Pastore on 0161 2610434, luisa.pastore@lsc.gov.uk

The Write Angle on 01772 250505

Stephanie Lord: stephanie@writeanglepr.co.uk

Hollie Roberts: hollie@writeanglepr.co.uk