

## **LANCASHIRE COMPANY CELEBRATES TRAINING SUCCESS AS TRAIN TO GAIN CELEBRATES ITS SECOND BIRTHDAY**

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

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Blackpool-based Ashberry Sandwiches is celebrating the success of a training service that has just signed up its 100,000<sup>th</sup> company as it helps to provide businesses with the skills they need to deliver results.

Ashberry Sandwiches runs a busy food production and manufacturing operation, which provides high quality sandwiches to retailers across Lancashire.

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.

Ashberry Sandwiches Operations Manager, Neil Holden said: "We expected the training to help us maintain high quality standards within the business, but this has been only one of the results of Train to Gain for us," Neil continues, "The training has really helped motivate the team and staff retention levels are higher now than they have ever been."

“A lot of this is down to the improved confidence that the team has; they take real pride in their work, which has also helped improve product quality. The improved skills, staff communication and morale that we are benefiting from thanks to Train to Gain has helped us achieve a consistently visually appealing product range that tastes as good as it looks.”

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 Lancashire to address their training needs, just like Ashberry Sandwiches has done, and consider how best their training requirements can be met.”

## **Ends**

### **Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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