

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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Leyland-based Schwan's Consumer Brands 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.

Schwan's is the creator of popular products including Chicago Town Pizza and employs around 300 staff. The company prides itself on encouraging staff to work their way through the ranks of the company and providing the best training to help employees to reach their 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.

Schwan's Learning and Development Coordinator, Elaine Pearson, said: "The Train to Gain service has contributed to the realisation of some tangible business improvements, from increased up-time to a lower accident rate, higher productivity and improved product quality.

“The service provides structured, flexible training delivered with minimum disruption to the day to day life of a business. We are definitely going to continue training our staff in this way.”

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 Schwan’s has done, and consider how best their training requirements can be met.”

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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