

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

Merseyside company brushes with success as one of 100,000 companies to benefit from the Skills Brokerage Service.

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Merseyside based Distinctive Decorating Services (DDS) 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.

DDS prides itself on quality and reliability and believes that a sound training structure is key to achieving great results. With a range of domestic and commercial customers - including the supermarket Tesco, it must ensure its skills are of a very high standard and always up to date. Employees from DDS tapped into work-based training opportunities provided by Train to Gain as part of an ongoing commitment to development.

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.

Managing Director of DDS, Keith Connolly, said: "In the construction industry, every employee needs to obtain a Construction Skills Certification Scheme card which requires

a certain level of qualification. This, coupled with a need for staff to work efficiently and safely, meant we needed to find a suitable way to train our staff.

“Train to Gain’s flexible approach has meant we are able to get on with the job at hand whilst our staff gain the skills they need to achieve their potential.”

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

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