

WARRINGTON LEADERS EMBRACE APPRENTICESHIPS

Thirty two representatives of local organisations attend Apprenticeship Week summit.

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Public and private sector employers from across Warrington have shown their support for Apprenticeships at a breakfast summit at the Daresbury Park Hotel, near Warrington. The recent event was arranged by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the North West, with the support of Warrington Borough Council, to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

Apprenticeship Week celebrates the achievements of apprentices from a wide range of sectors, and highlights the business benefits of the Apprenticeship programme.

The Government cemented its backing for Apprenticeships at the beginning of this week with the announcement of 21,000 new public sector Apprenticeship places.

New research released to mark Apprenticeship Week reveals that 85 per cent of apprentice employers in the North West rely on their Apprenticeship programmes to give them the skilled workers they need for the future; 89 per cent say Apprenticeships are likely to play a bigger part in their recruitment policy in the future.

The recent event was organised to illustrate the benefits to businesses of employing apprentices, and encourage existing apprentice employers to consider increasing the number of apprentices they employ. Delegates also had the opportunity to find out more about the new Vacancy Matching Service, which gives employers the ability to advertise their Apprenticeship vacancies on one central website for apprentices to search.

Liz Davis, Director of Area for Cheshire and Warrington and National Apprenticeship Service Project Director for the LSC in the North West, said "Businesses that employ apprentices see a wide range of benefits, and this week's research backs this up. From

raising employee motivation to reducing overall training costs, the benefits of Apprenticeships speak for themselves.

In these difficult times it is more important than ever to have the right staff on board, along with access to the latest sector knowledge and training. Apprenticeships can do this for you, and that's why more and more businesses are getting involved.”

ENDS

Photo caption: Mike Horton - Sellafield Ltd, Councillor Ian Marks - Leader of Warrington Borough Council, Liz Davis - LSC Councillor and Keith Bland - Warrington Borough Council.

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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