

EDDIE STOBART GETS ON BOARD WITH THE SKILLS PLEDGE

Cumbrian logistics company leads the way by making the Skills Pledge

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Eddie Stobart Ltd, the UK's most famous transport and logistics company, has made a public commitment to the development of its workforce by making the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Skills Pledge.

Mark Haysom, Chief Executive of the LSC was in Cumbria to witness Dale Foster, Operations Director of Eddie Stobart Ltd, make the Pledge at a recent event held at partner organisation WA Developments' head office in Carlisle.

Through the Skills Pledge, employers make a commitment to support their employees and new recruits in developing their basic skills and working towards relevant qualifications to at least Level 2 - the equivalent to five GCSEs at grades A-C. As well as raising staff skills, the aim is to enable organisations to create a more productive and competitive workforce.

Eddie Stobart Ltd is already reaping the rewards of focusing on staff training and development as Dale Foster comments, "Training our staff is key to the development of our employees. It is our investment in training that means our staff gain a thorough understanding of their job and their responsibilities, which is as beneficial to us as a business as it is to our staff.

"We work in conjunction with Carlisle based training provider System Group Ltd, one of the leading logistics training organisations in the UK. So far, 618 members of staff have

begun working towards their Driving Goods Vehicles NVQ at Level 2 and we have seen a 97% achievement rate of the 318 staff who have already completed the course.

“As part of making the Skills Pledge, our aim is to put 1200 drivers through the NVQ programme and then encourage staff to progress onto Level 3. We also plan to introduce a similar level of training for our warehouse staff.”

Mark Haysom, comments, “In making the Skills Pledge, Eddie Stobart Ltd has clearly demonstrated the importance it places on its staff. The company’s ambition to boost workforce skills deserves to be applauded.

“Eddie Stobart Ltd is a major employer across the UK and with its head quarters based in Cumbria, the company is setting a good example to other organisations in the region. I urge other North West employers to follow their lead and make a commitment to the Skills Pledge.”

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:

For more information contact

LSC website: www.lsc.gov.uk

All media enquiries please contact:

LSC

Debbie Newell on 0161 261 0434, deborah.newell@lsc.gov.uk

The Write Angle on 01772 250505

Emma Lyons: emma@writeanglepr.co.uk

Stephanie Lord: stephanie@writeanglepr.co.uk