

## **BIBBY DISTRIBUTION GETS ON BOARD WITH THE SKILLS PLEDGE**

### **Liverpool logistics company leads the way by making the Skills Pledge**

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Leading logistics company, Bibby Distribution has made a public commitment to the development of its workforce by making the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Skills Pledge.

Group Managing Director of the Liverpool based company, Sir Michael Bibby and Iain Speak, Chief Executive of Bibby Distribution made the pledge at a recent event, hosted by specialist logistics training organisation, System Group Limited.

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.

Staff development is a high priority for Bibby Distribution as Iain Speak comments, "As a company, investing heavily in training our staff is something we have done for a long time, and the LSC's Skills Pledge simply confirms our commitment. The Bibby Academy, which forms our training and development programme, is open to all our employees and allows our staff to work towards an NVQ. At present we have over 250 members of staff taking an NVQ across all areas from drivers to team leaders, warehouse operatives to administrators. We also offer e-learning, hosting a number of health and safety courses

online, as well as our Evolve programme which is open to staff who want to move up the ladder and fulfil their potential in a managerial role.

“As an organisation we realise the only thing that differentiates us is our people and that the more we develop our workforce and help them to achieve their potential, the more beneficial this is for us. What’s more, since we launched the Bibby Academy, it has been noted that we have a low staff turnover in comparison to the industry average, and we would like to think this is due to the emphasis we place on staff training.

“Our future plans include continuing with the Bibby Academy and extending our offering with the launch of a Foundation Degree in Logistics, which we hope to start next year, in conjunction with the University of Cumbria. I would strongly recommend that other employers make the Skills Pledge – to be competitive you have to make a solid commitment to your staff. Even though Bibby Distribution is part of a 200 year old group, we realise that we still have to develop and diversify in order to succeed and we need our employees to do this with us.”

Helen France, Director of Area for Greater Merseyside comments, “Bibby Distribution is proof of the benefits that can be achieved by making an investment in people. Already committed to helping staff reach their full potential, by making the Skills Pledge, Bibby Distribution has confirmed its dedication to future workforce development. As a major employer in Liverpool, Bibby Distribution is setting a powerful example and I urge other organisations 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:**

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