

MERSEYSIDE EMPLOYERS MAKE THE SKILLS PLEDGE

Skills Minister, David Lammy, Joins City's Employers to Celebrate Commitment to Workforce Skills

Date of issue 21 May 2008

Publication number NWR-285

Merseyside's leading employers made a firm commitment to boosting the area's skills when they gathered at a Skills Pledge Roadshow, held yesterday (20.5.08) at Liverpool Cathedral.

David Lammy, Minister for Skills was joined by Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive of the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) at the event, organised by Liverpool Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North West.

Dantech UK, Wincanton and the FRC Group were amongst the area's businesses that put their weight behind the Skills Pledge, through which employers commit to supporting their employees to develop basic skills and gain a relevant qualification to a minimum of NVQ Level 2, the equivalent of 5 GCSEs. Employers can access support to deliver on their Skills Pledge through Train to Gain, a service managed and funded by the LSC that helps businesses find the training they need for their employees and provides funding towards the cost of training.

Five employers showed a united front by making the Skills Pledge at the event, and in doing so, demonstrated the importance of investing in workforce skills, in a bid to increase their productivity and in turn, improve the economic performance of Merseyside.

Addressing the audience David Lammy said: “As the Skills Pledge approaches its first anniversary almost 2,500 organisations employing 3.7 million people have made the Pledge. It’s an excellent start, but there’s still a great challenge ahead.

“The success of the UK economy is inextricably linked to the skills of its workforce and we must ensure that our people have the right training and qualifications to match the changing needs of business. I’d like to congratulate all the employers that have shown their dedication to their employees by making the Skills Pledge today. I hope that this strong support for the Pledge will encourage other Merseyside employers to get on board and follow their lead.”

John Korzeniewski, Regional Director of the LSC in the North West added: “People are an employer’s greatest asset; so investing in them makes sound business sense. Simply by committing to upskilling their workforce and creating a clear path for staff development, businesses are not only helping to increase the nation’s skills levels but are securing their long term commercial health.”

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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