

Basically...

Key Terms in Plain English

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Continuing Employment and Support Service (CESS)

A definition: Support for companies going through redundancy to help their workers find new jobs

What is it all about?

The Continuing Employment and Support Service (CESS) is designed to rapidly respond to an announcement of redundancies. It helps to move the affected workers into new employment quickly and prevent them from becoming unemployed and claiming benefits. It provides support for workers before they need to access the services of Jobcentre Plus (JCP).

Support includes:

- workshops and one to ones giving careers advice;
- CV writing and interview technique advice;
- access to support to re-train and upskill: what's available and where, and information on how to access possible financial support for training;
- advice and potential financial support to start up a business and self-employment options;
- advice on pensions and state benefits, including preserving National Insurance contributions;
- information on the services of Jobcentre Plus;
- direct access to local companies that are hiring.

It is a **free service** from the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and Jobcentre Plus, working in partnership with government organisations such as Business Link and the Learning and Skills Council.

What does this mean in real terms?

When a company announces redundancies, a CESS broker gets in touch. They work with the company to assess what their needs are and put together a free, tailored, in-house package of support. Elements of the support package are provided by a range of partner organisations such as nextstep for information, advice and guidance (see Basically...issue 6); Train to Gain Skills Brokers (see Basically... issue 5); and Business Link (see Basically... issue 11). The CESS brokers will also work alongside outplacement support organisations that have been engaged by the company to ensure that the workers get access to full range of information on state benefits and JCP services.

CESS and Jobcentre Plus are closely linked. If workers do not find new employment straight away they can access the services from the local Jobcentre Plus.

What more can we do?

When a company announces redundancies, it has been agreed by all main partners in the South East that CESS should be the first point of contact. If you hear about a company going through redundancy let CESS know. Also, tell others about the service so we can ensure companies going through redundancy get the support they need.

Want to find out more?

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