

Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) Noticeboard

Sharing information with our partner organisations

Welcome

Welcome to the Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) Noticeboard, which will be updated bimonthly from January 2009. Items on this noticeboard will be accessible to LSC staff and our external partner organisations. Here we can share:

- up-to-date news and information about IES
- related documents/research/papers
- planning and other operational documents
- the work of IES-related groups and developments across the region

1. Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) Trial Update

The trial of the Integrated Employment and Skills service went live on 16 February 2009 across Hampshire and Isle of Wight. The trial is focusing on co-location of nextstep advisers in Jobcentre Plus offices, enhanced screening and nextstep referral processes, a new Skills Health Check diagnostic tool and Skills Accounts.

nextstep advisors have been co-located at 20 Jobcentre Plus locations across Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Using the enhanced screening and referral process, at the end of March Jobcentre Plus had referred over 400 customers to nextstep.

Customers receive a range of support from nextstep including one-to-one advice on careers and learning opportunities, referral to suitable training provision as well as help with CV writing and job search. nextstep advisors are also trialing the Skills Health Check diagnostic tool with customers as well as offering Skills Accounts.

Jobcentre Plus have produced a ***New Skills, new job, new future*** leaflet and poster to be used in trial areas to promote the enhanced service and the focus on skills to support employment. These can be accessed here:

Leaflet: <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/Leaflet.pdf>

Poster: <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/Poster.pdf>

The nextstep leaflet ***Taking the nextstep*** can be accessed from this link:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/nextstep_SE_leaflet.pdf

For further information in the IES Trial please contact Fiona.Willmot@lsc.gov.uk or Penny.Askew@lsc.gov.uk
LSC colleagues can access information on the trials from the IES pages on the LSC intranet (LSC only):

<https://newintranet.lsc.gov.uk/corporate/skills/groupstructure/skillsforemployment/integratedemploymentskills/>

2. South East region Economic Recovery – News and Developments

In the South East a joint Economic Recovery Plan sets out how Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and SEEDA are working together to respond effectively and rapidly to the employment and business challenges arising from the current downturn. The development and implementation of the plan is supported by a wide range of partners including Business Link, GOSE, Sector Skills Councils and providers.

The plan focuses on:

- Businesses – providing support to improve performance and overcome downturn challenges
- Rapidly responding to redundancies – help for businesses and individuals
- Information, advice and guidance for individuals, particularly those at risk of, or newly redundant
- Employment and skills opportunities for people who are unemployed, at risk of redundancy or newly unemployed
- Young people – preparing them for employment and supporting Apprentices

You can view a summary of the plan using the link below, or request a full version from Jill.Goddard@lsc.gov.uk
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/SE_Joint_Regional_Recovery_Plan_Executive_Summary_MARCH_2009-22mar09.pdf

The joint working is known collectively as **Keeping the South East Working** and supports the government's **real help now** campaign www.realhelpnow.gov.uk. A leaflet has been produced for use by SE stakeholders as a reference guide, setting out the joint offer to customers – individuals and businesses. It is not intended for use by customers, who should be signposted directly as follows:

- Individuals to www.direct.gov.uk/realhelp, nextstep 0800 1954 700 www.nextstepsoutheast.org.uk or Jobcentre Plus 0845 6060 234 www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk
- Businesses to Business Link 0845 6009 006 www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

A copy of the leaflet can be found using the link below, or to order a printed copy, email Steven.Heaton@lsc.gov.uk
http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/KeepingtheSouthEastWorking_StakeholderLeaflet_A5-mar09.pdf

A series of **Keeping the South East Working** briefings are being planned for advisers and front line staff across the South East on the joint support offer (primarily nextstep, Jobcentre Plus and Business Link). These will be scheduled across the region during April and May. For more info please contact Alexandra.Jones@lsc.gov.uk

For further information on **Keeping the South East Working** please contact Jill.Goddard@lsc.gov.uk

More information on our response to the downturn will appear in the next edition of the Noticeboard.

3. Six month unemployed training offer

From April 2009 people unemployed for 6 months or more will be able access an additional 75,000 places in FE, following an announcement by the Prime Minister at the Employment Summit on 12 January 2009 of £83 million to support people back into work. This offer is to provide a significant step up for those whose skills levels are a barrier in gaining sustainable employment in today's (and tomorrow's) labour market.

The provision is not to support the development of general employability skills or help in how to get a job – it's about support to do the job the individual aspires to, and gaining a qualification to help them achieve a sustainable job and longer term career progression. Programmes will lead to a recognised qualification in Skills for Life, Level 2 or Level 3 and must have the objective of helping people to enter employment with training, continuing their development in the workplace through Train to Gain or an Apprenticeship. Employers that take on individuals who have accessed the training offer would be entitled to receive a recruitment subsidy of up to £1,000.

Whilst there are other providers who are in receipt of Adult Learner Responsive funding, the intention is that FE colleges who hold Train to Gain contracts will deliver this programme, given the breadth of provision they have available and their geographical coverage. FE colleges will be contacted shortly by the LSC to discuss the offer and how to get involved.

For more information please contact Fiona.Willmot@lsc.gov.uk

4. Jobcentre Plus And Train To Gain Brokerage Service – Protocols (SE)

This new **toolkit** went live on the 9 February 2009. It outlines the ways in which Jobcentre Plus Account Managers and Skills South East (SSE) Brokers (funded by the LSC) can work together in the delivery of the Train to Gain offer in the South East. It is also intended that this will be used by the Integrated Brokerage Service (SSE and Business Link) from April 2009. It includes useful items for those professionals such as:

- Clarification of the roles and responsibilities
- Flow charts showing referral processes between the two organisations
- Explanation of the 'Employer Direct' initiative that forms the basis of the core offer for Train to Gain, as agreed by Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council
- Useful Websites
- Key named contacts at Jobcentre Plus and Skills South East
- Tools: sample letters to employers (for LEPs), a spreadsheet that captures information about employers and can be shared between organisations for the purpose of referrals, fact sheets about Jobcentre Plus, Train to Gain Brokerage and the National Apprenticeship Service

This toolkit will be reviewed in May following the feedback from first use by Account Managers and Skills Brokers. For further information, please contact Sue.Ormiston@lsc.gov.uk

5. 'The Challenges of using ALR and other funding to meet the recession' AOSSEC Regional Event – 26 March 2009

On 26 March Principals and senior staff from colleges across the South East joined colleagues from LSC South East to attend an AOSSEC event on IES and what it means to FE. Essential to the event was a joint presentation by Tony Lau Walker, Principal of Eastleigh College, and Anne-Marie Mountifield, Partnership Director at LSC Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Their presentation explained how the LSC and Eastleigh College are working together to support Ford and its employees through the recession.

Email Amy.Horne@lsc.gov.uk for copies of the agenda and the presentations that formed part of the event:

- Adult Learning in the South East in the Current Economic Climate
- Integrated Employment and Skills and the Economic Downturn
- Keeping the South East working – Supporting the Automotive sector
- Using Adult Learner Responsive Funding to meet the recession

Visit the Association of South East Colleges website at www.aosec.org.uk

6. Skills Accounts Trial

In 2009/10 Skills Accounts are coming to an FE college near you! Building on the current Skills Accounts trial in which nextstep and 12 strategic partners have been promoting and offering Skills Accounts, in 09/10 the trial will be extended to include all FE providers in the South East (briefings and training will begin shortly for these providers).

As part of the trial, the functionality of the Skills Account will be updated in the coming months. This will include a learner record to store details of the individual's learning pathways and record achievement and progression, and a learner statement to demonstrate the value of the different contributions made towards the cost of learning e.g. from the individual, the employer and the government. You can open your own Skills Account by visiting www.direct.gov.uk/skillsaccounts

For more information on the Skills Accounts trial in the South East please contact Penny.Askew@lsc.gov.uk and view 'Basically...Issue 8' (see section 8 below).

7. The National Apprenticeship Service and the Online Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching System – overview and update

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) will be established in April 2009. It will provide an end to end service for Apprenticeships that includes: Employer Services, Learner Services and an online vacancy matching system to increase the number of Apprenticeship opportunities.

A marketing campaign aimed at employers and featuring Sir Alan Sugar is running in the national media until the end of March 2009.

The online vacancy matching system was successfully launched in January 2009. The system allows candidates to search and apply for Apprenticeships online and employers to advertise vacancies free of charge. There are currently more than 27, 000 candidates registered with the system.

Further information about NAS and the vacancy matching system can be found by clicking [http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/NAS - Online Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching System.pdf](http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/NAS_-_Online_Apprenticeship_Vacancy_Matching_System.pdf)

For further details, contact Anne.Rodriguez@lsc.gov.uk or visit <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk>

8. IES-related topics in Plain English

We have developed a series of plain English 'Basically' documents on areas of Integrated Employment and Skills. These can all be found on the IES South East Webpage at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/SouthEast/whatwedo/Adult+learners/Integrated+Employment+and+Skills.htm

- Basically... Issue 1: Integrated Employment and Skills (IES)
- Basically... Issue 2: Local Employment Partnerships (LEP)
- Basically... Issue 3: Adult Advancement and Careers Service (aacs)
- Basically... Issue 4: Advancement Network Prototypes
- Basically... Issue 5: Train to Gain
- Basically... Issue 6: Redundancy IAG nextstep support
- Basically... Issue 7: Continuing Employment & Support Service (CESS)
- Basically... Issue 8: Skills Accounts
- Basically... Issue 9: Learning during short time working, lay off, or under notice of redundancy
- Basically... Issue 10: Pre-Employment Training (PET)
- Business Start-up support from Business Link
- IES Customer Journey

9. Informal Adult Learning White Paper: The Learning Revolution

The White Paper, *The Learning Revolution*, was launched on 23 March 2009 and sets out the Government's strategy for informal learning. Click here to access it:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/skills/engaging_learners/informal_adult_learning/white_paper.aspx

Government recognises the profound importance of informal adult learning to people's lives and our nation's well-being. Informal learning can help people gain personal satisfaction, development and fulfillment. For the low skilled and those with poor experiences of formal education, informal learning can be an important stepping stone to further learning, qualifications and more rewarding work. It can help keep people mentally and physically active and independent into old age. It can also bring people and communities together.

This strategy reaffirms cross-government commitment to informal learning and sets out how the Government will act as an enabler, capacity builder and connector to maximise the potential benefits.

<http://www.dius.gov.uk/learningrevolution>

10. Re-skilling for recovery: After Leitch, implementing skills and training policies

<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.com/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmdius/48/48i.pdf>

This report (published 16 January 2009) discusses ways forward for skills development and training in the light of the current economic downturn. It makes the key point that the targets set out by the Leitch report in December 2006 were made during a more optimistic time for the UK economy. One of the key messages is that the government should value re-skilling, not just up-skilling at a time when many people are facing redundancy and may be seeking alternative employment routes.

Who's Who?

LSC South East:

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| ■ Peter.Marsh@lsc.gov.uk | Regional Skills Director - SE Region |
| ■ Fiona.Willmot@lsc.gov.uk | Skills Development Director - IES, SE Region |
| ■ Sue.Ormiston@lsc.gov.uk | Skills Development Manager - IES, Workless Adults, SE Region |
| ■ Viv.Ottaway@lsc.gov.uk | Partnership Director – Surrey |
| ■ Anne-Marie.Mountifield@lsc.gov.uk | Partnership Director – HioW |
| ■ Jill.Goddard@lsc.gov.uk | Economic Development Director - Thames Valley |
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| ■ Penny.Askew@lsc.gov.uk | Skills Development Manager - Skills Accounts |
| ■ Letitia.Mason@lsc.gov.uk | Skills Development Manager - Personal and Community Development and Learning (PCDL) and Information Advice and Guidance (IAG/Next Steps) |
| ■ David.Wylie@lsc.gov.uk | Skills Development Manager - Skills for Life |
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| ■ Ellena.Thompson@lsc.gov.uk | Skills Development Manager – IES |

National LSC:

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| ■ Gareth.Thomas@lsc.gov.uk | IES Director |
| ■ Vicky.Ganley@lsc.gov.uk | Senior Policy Manager - JCP relationship |
| ■ Christine.Ingall@lsc.gov.uk | Senior Policy Manager - Pre-employment provision |
| ■ Lynn.Payne@lsc.gov.uk | Senior Policy manager - Systems, Management of IES Project Office |

Useful Resources / Documents / Presentations

- LSC Pre-Employment Training (PET) Information Sheets (training provision details by area):
 - Hampshire and the Isle of Wight <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/hampsh~1.pdf>
 - Kent and Medway <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/kentme~1.pdf>
 - Surrey <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/surrey~1.pdf>
 - Sussex <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/sussex~1.pdf>
 - Thames Valley <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/thames~1.pdf>
 - IES Map: <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/IESMAP%7E1.pdf>
 - IES Key : http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/SouthEast/LSC_ESP_SfJ_Key_to_IES_Map_for_noticeboard.pdf
- This map shows a visual picture of Pre-Employment training (PET) provision across the South East

Useful Links and Websites are on the LSC South East IES webpage. These can be found at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/SouthEast/whatwedo/Adult+learners/Integrated+Employment+and+Skills.htm

Useful Links - Key reports/papers

- South East Accord
- World Class Skills
- Ready for work
- Ready to Work, Skilled for Work
- In Work, better off
- Opportunity, Employment & Progression
- Work Skills
- No one written off
- The Learning Revolution

Websites

- Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Learning and Skills Council
- Skills Strategy
- UK Commission for Employment and Skills
- nextstep South East

If you would like to contribute to the IES Noticeboard, please send information to Ellena.Thompson@lsc.gov.uk