

Bristol Zoo

BUSINESS SECTOR: Leisure

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 50-249

REGION: SOUTH WEST

Business Profile: Bristol Zoo Gardens is committed to conservation and research and works together with other zoos and associated organisations to breed endangered species, protect natural habitats and prevent their destruction



"We have around 180 full time staff at Bristol Zoo Gardens, and more than 250 volunteers, all of whom play a crucial part in delivering a great experience for our visitors. We are proud to have made the Skills Pledge"

Dr Jo Gipps
Director

Bristol Zoo has become one of the latest South West based companies to pledge its commitment to train all its employees to NVQ Level 2 standard by making the Skills Pledge.

Malcolm Gillespie, Regional director for the LSC South West, said: "We are delighted that Bristol Zoo Gardens has made the Skills Pledge, a public commitment to training and investing in the future of their staff. The Skills Pledge has already attracted great support in the South West and employers are benefiting from accessing the Train to Gain service through making the Skills Pledge."

What is Train to Gain?

Train to Gain is a Skills Brokerage service, managed and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) that helps employers find the training they need for their employees. Train to Gain links employers with Skills Brokers who work individually with them to find out what their employees' training needs are, work out a training plan, and then help to find the right training for them.

The Skills Pledge, which was launched in June 2007, is led by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), is a public, voluntary commitment by an organisation to train all employees to Level 2 standard (5 GCSEs grade A-C). Since its launch many companies in the South West have now made the Skills Pledge enabling thousands of employees across the South West to access training.

The range of training that will be undertaken at the Zoo includes IT, Retail, Customer Service and Management Development to boost the skills levels of all Zoo employees.

Vicky Holford, a Train to Gain Skills Broker, said: "Train to Gain is a valuable resource for organisations that need to access support and funding to develop their workforce."

Sue Gregory, the Zoo's Head of Human Resources, said: "Bristol Zoo Gardens is pleased to be involved in this scheme and to making a commitment to the future development of our employees' skills and knowledge."

What is the Skills Pledge?

The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all its employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2 (equivalent to 5 good GCSEs). The purpose is to ensure that all staff are skilled, competent and able to make a full contribution to the success of the company/organisation.