

DORSET BUSINESSES ENCOURAGED TO BEAT THE SUMMER BLUES

Date of issue August 26 2008

Recent research ⁽¹⁾ has highlighted that almost half of UK employees returning to work from their summer holiday consider handing in their notice!

To avert this, Dorset employers are being encouraged by Train to Gain to take action to increase staff retention and raise productivity by investing in their staff through training.

The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Train to Gain service offers businesses impartial advice on their skills requirements; matching training needs of companies with training providers, sourcing potential funding and grants and finding courses that suit them and their employees.

Chris Minett, Skills Development Director at Train to Gain, said: "This summer we are really bringing home the importance of training to employers. Not only does it boost morale but demonstrates a company's commitment to their employees and ultimately helps to increase profits. Research by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills highlights that the failure rate among companies that didn't train their staff was 2.5 times higher than those that did."

She continued: "The research also indicates that despite the help on offer from Train to Gain a third of SMEs don't invest in any training at all. With the South West having one of highest SME base in England (70% of all employment ⁽²⁾) it is crucial that employers act now to keep hold of their valuable employees."

Shaftsbury based organisation Keepsake Productions contacted Train to Gain to source training advice and access funding for courses. Employees have undertaken Level 2 NVQs in Customer Service Training.

Jan Thomas, Director of Keepsake Productions said: "The training has had a great impact on the way the employees approach their work, making our customer

service much more effective. It has also given people greater confidence and I would encourage other organisations to train their staff and invest in their future. Undoubtedly it will have a positive effect on the company's future success."

More information on Train to Gain can be found via - www.traintogain.gov.uk or call 08456 047 047 to speak with a Train to Gain Skills Broker.

- Ends -

Note to Editors:

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 more information visit: www.lsc.gov.uk/southwest

- (1) The Franchise Group 2007 Report
- (2) Office for National Statistics, 2004

All media enquiries, please contact:

Rebecca, Jenny or Lindsay at JBP on 0117 9073400 or email rebecca@jbp.co.uk, jenny@jbp.co.uk or Lindsay@jbp.co.uk.