

FUNDS TO HELP BOSSES SHARPEN SKILLS

Date of issue: 19 February, 2008

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the South West is calling on businesses to follow the lead of more than 250 companies who in the past four months have taken advantage of funding to help offset the cost of leadership and management development.

A lack of leadership skills, particularly among SMEs, is a major issue, costing UK PLC in excess of £6bn a year.¹ This is compounded by the fact that the UK is trailing behind its European counterparts when it comes to investing in managers – it currently spends €1,600 per person on management training, considerably less than any other country in Europe. Yet over one half of CBI employers cite improving management and leadership skills as the most significant factor contributing to competitiveness.

Significant support is available for leadership and management development activities from the LSC's Train to Gain service which offers businesses impartial advice on training and up to £1,000 in match funding to assist with addressing key issues for employers.

For the 250 companies who have taken advantage of the scheme in the past four months, Train to Gain Skills Brokers have advised on development programmes to support everyone from Managing Directors to Supervisors

The success of the programme has meant that additional funds are now available to boost the effectiveness of senior staff in a further 100 companies in the region so employers are encouraged not to delay and make contact today.

Says Marion Sweet, Skills Development Manager at the LSC South West: "Leadership and management development can be overlooked as businesses tend to focus on

¹ Research by Chartered Psychologists - Ros Taylor Group

generating revenue, particularly if they are on a path to fast track growth. However, productivity, efficiency, staff retention and motivation, competitiveness and sustainable financial growth are all highly dependent on effective management teams.

“Since the launch of the grant, we have had applications from businesses spanning almost every sector in the region. The response to the match funding has been excellent and we are already seeing the impact the training is having on these companies.”

Marion added: “The good news is that for those who haven’t yet taken advantage of the scheme, grants are still available for 2008. I would strongly urge anyone interested in developing the leadership potential of their staff to contact Train to Gain now to avoid missing out on the business benefits gained from developing leaders and managers.”

Call 08456 047 047 for more information or email: traintogain@bldc.co.uk

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Learning & Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country. For more information visit www.lsc.gov.uk/westofengland

Train to Gain

Train to Gain is a service from the Learning and Skills Council, helping businesses get the training they need to succeed. An important element of the Train to Gain service is skills brokerage that offers free impartial advice, and helps find the best training solution from high quality and responsive training providers to meet business needs. To find out more call 0800 015 5545 or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

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