

DEVON ENCOURAGED TO BEAT THE SUMMER BLUES

Date of issue August 20 2008

With research ⁽¹⁾ highlighting that almost half of UK employees returning to work from their summer holiday consider handing in their notice, Devon employers are being encouraged by Train to Gain to take action and increase staff retention and productivity by investing in their staff through training.

The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Train to Gain service offer 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. It boosts morale, 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 the highest SME base in England (70% of all employment ⁽²⁾) it is crucial that employers act now to keep hold of their valuable employees."

Newton Abbott based company Pasta King contacted Train to Gain to source training advice. Fifteen members of staff have since undertaken different training courses, including NVQ Level 2 in Food and Drink Manufacturing Operations.

Paul Haigney, Operations Director at Pasta King, said: "The training has had great impact on the way our employees approach their work, making our processes

more efficient and productive. It has also given people greater confidence and helped to boost their self-esteem.

The investment in training has also definitely helped to increase our turnover, which has rocketed in the past two years to nearly £10 million. Increasing our skills base has undoubtedly helped to secure our continued success.”

Train to Gain will be targeting South West businesses and organisations throughout the summer to encourage them to invest in training with the help of Train to Gain.

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.

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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.

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