



News from the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils, North West for SSCs, partners and stakeholders

Issue 13 – 24 February 2010

Useful contacts

Alliance Regional Manager, North West

Sarah Mcloughlin Email: sarah.mcloughlin@ssc Alliance.org Mobile: 07827277693

Alliance NW Chair

Joanna Woolf Email: Joanna.woolf@cogent-ssc.com Tel: 01925 515210

Alliance NW Deputy Chair

Jaine Chisholm-Caunt Email: Jaine.chisholm-caunt@cogent-ssc.com Tel: 01925 515219

Please send any comments, queries or feedback to sarah.mcloughlin@ssc Alliance.org

SSCs provide 20-times return on investment

The Alliance of Sector Skills Councils has published a report highlighting the economic impact of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs).

The review, undertaken by Baker Tilly, samples four SSCs: Cogent, Energy & Utility Skills, People 1st and Skills for Health and found that on average SSCs provide more than 100 million pounds every year from funding of only five million pounds.

> [Click here to find out more](#)



The success of Licensed to Skill

Interviews by John McNamara, Chief Executive of the Alliance and Skills Minister, Kevin Brennan MP on the first Alliance conference, Licensed to Skill can be found below:

> [John McNamara interview](#)

> [Kevin Brennan MP interview](#)



Cogent and Semta agreement

Sector Skills Councils Semta and Cogent have announced a strategic Partnership Agreement to improve support to employers in their sectors by collaborating on common areas of research, on science and technology skills and qualification development.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

Northern collaboration helps drive the economy and growth

The Northern Way has been highlighted by Government as an example of best practice in cross-regional collaboration, mobilising resources from the three northern development agencies to invest in economic opportunities across regional boundaries. The BIS publication, [Partnerships for Growth](#) argues that *"in the North of England, the Northern Way partnership provides an example of best practice in cross-regional collaboration, in specific areas where a joined-up approach improves efficiency and effectiveness"*. The document goes on to encourage further cross-boundary working, and highlights a range of case studies from the North.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

Technology workforce will boost UK's economic recovery

Employment in the UK's technology workforce has continued to increase, despite the recession - but continued investment in technology and technology skills are crucial to help the UK's economic recovery. New research by e-skills UK, the SSC for Business and Information Technology, shows that a highly skilled technology workforce could be the solution to the UK's economic recovery.

> [Download the research here](#)

Apprenticeship grants for employers

The National Apprenticeship Service will provide up to 5,000 Apprenticeship Grants for Employers of 16 and 17 year olds (AGE 16 and 17) with a value of £2,500 to encourage employers to take on unemployed 16-17 year olds as apprentices.



> [Click here to find out more](#)

Northwest exporters outperform rest of UK

New data from two sources indicates that the Northwest has weathered the economic storm better than most regions. According to an analysis of official ONS (Office of National Statistics) figures by Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Northwest exporters are outperforming those from the rest of the UK. In addition, business information provider Experian has released figures which show the region was second only to London in the value of corporate deals done last year.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

Lifeline for Merseyside workers facing redundancy

Merseyside is benefitting from a £9.8 million cash injection by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for Greater Merseyside to support workers who have been, or are being made redundant. The LSC 'Response to Redundancy' programme aims to give workers facing redundancy the best possible chance of securing new employment quickly by giving employers the opportunity to equip staff with essential skills training during their redundancy consultation period.

> [Click here to find out more about accessing LSC funds](#)

State of the Third Sector – survey

This survey, published in January, highlights fundraising as the area with the biggest skills shortage, with 42 per cent of respondents naming it as one of the five areas where skills were in short supply for this sector.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

Skills, Jobs Growth

If you were unable to attend the UKCES conference on 8th-9th February, which brought together national and international skills experts and leading thinkers to focus on the UK's future strategy for skills, jobs and growth, you can view it online:

> [Click here to find out more](#)

Free courses for those made redundant / unemployed

This LSC-funded programme is free to anyone under threat of redundancy or unemployed. Blue Orchid are providing management skills training up to 75 hours on topics such as Project Management, NLP in Management and Key Account Management.

In addition, they have a graduate programme, working in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University on a government funded initiative to help recent graduates find work placements that will give them vital work experience to add weight to their CVs.

> [Email Christa Norman to find out more](#)

Action Learning training workshops

The Alliance currently has some availability on the upcoming Management & Leadership action learning training workshops and is calling for interested SSCs to attend. The dates are 19, 20, 21 April for Part 1 and 12, 13 May for Part 2. The central M&L programme is subsidising half the cost. £500 will buy you a total of 5 days of highly personalised training which will deliver a custom-built 'business issue' template designed to be highly relevant and attractive to your target employers.

> [Email Mike Hender to find out more](#)

Business Leadership Forum

9 March 2010, Trafford

This meeting will be receiving presentations from Damien Bourke of the NWDA on the Atlantic Gateway proposals and Drew Hemment of FutureEverything, winners of the 2010 Lever Prize.

> [Email ann.sollars@nwblt.co.uk if you would like to attend](mailto:ann.sollars@nwblt.co.uk)

North West Skills Award Celebration Luncheon

2 July 2010, Salford

Join a host of Award Winners for a Celebration Luncheon and hear how authorities in the North West are successfully addressing the Skills needs of their workforces. Find out how Councils are reaping the benefits of their commitment to learning and development for all. Hear how they have worked closely with trade union partners to engage learners, address barriers to skills development and address difficult workforce issues.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

North West Sub Regional Coordinators, Skills for Care

Skills for Care are recruiting for 2 posts, fixed term until March 2011. Deadline: 25th March 2010.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

Assistant Research Manager, IMI

Ideal applicants will have excellent project management, mathematical and IT skills together with the ability to analyse interpret and articulate relevant data from a wide range of sources in order to recommend actions and inform decisions. Deadline: 26th March 2010

> [Click here to find out more](#)