

FREE
CONFERENCE

EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life

Essex Apprentice (ESF)

engineering and manufacturing

the Essex Apprentice Launch Event

Thursday 30th July 2009

The Whoosh Centre at E2V
106 Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford CM1 2QU

» Around 1,000 new apprenticeships will be available in both the public and private sectors over the next three years thanks to an exciting initiative planned by Essex County Council.

Part-financed by the European Social Fund, the Essex Apprentice (ESF) Project identifies engineering and manufacturing as the key sectors for growth in the county.



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

Business Case

Essex County Council has recognised the need to rebalance apprenticeship provision to reflect the development needs of the local economy, as identified in the Essex Economic Framework by increasing the number of apprenticeships available in the engineering and manufacturing sectors.

The importance of increasing the availability of high quality vocational training has been acknowledged by government and business alike, with employers regularly reporting skills shortages and raising concerns about the employability of young people. Yet, during the recession, engineering employers have become increasingly reluctant to take on apprentices. Overall, apprenticeship places in Essex are down by 22% this year for 16-18 year olds.



Essex County Council

» In the engineering sector, the main reasons reported for reduced take up of apprentices are:

- the financial commitment and administrative costs of apprenticeships; and
- the inability of many smaller companies to offer the full breadth of experience that an apprentice needs.

Essex Apprentice - The Approach

- Essex County Council will employ 120 young people (aged 16-18) as apprentices, whilst they undertake a 1 year Level II apprenticeship in engineering.
- The project will help to de-risk companies by employing and paying the full costs of apprentices.
- Companies will contribute to a Timebank of work placements - making the project accessible even to micro-businesses. Creating placements that simply would not have existed without this project.

- Apprentices will spend at least 12 weeks in the workplace, and will be rotated around local business clusters to provide the necessary breadth of vocational experience to complete their Level II apprenticeship frameworks.
- By year 2, the project will provide SMEs with a much larger pool of newly qualified and work-ready engineers to recruit from.

Target business profile

The scheme aims to attract interest from microbusinesses, SMEs, large companies and their supply chains.

Your business will, ideally:

- be located in Essex;
- be in the engineering and manufacturing sectors;
- not have taken on an apprentice in the last two years, or perhaps never considered the possibility of taking on an apprentice before; or
- be looking to expand your apprenticeship offer

Businesses who wish to attend can register free by using our online form at

www.essex.gov.uk/essexapprentice

Contact Events Management Team:

Telephone: 01245 437153 or 01245 434179

Email: events@essex.gov.uk