

Skills Board Briefing Notes

BRIEFING NOTES

Skills Jersey

Skills Board - Meeting

11th May 2011

Education, Sport and Culture

Headlines

New Procurement considerations

New Advance to Work and Advance Plus statistics

Research into barriers to continued employment of people reaching retirement age

Enhanced Services for Jobseekers launched

Details

New Procurement considerations:

Correspondence between the Skills Board and States Procurement Officers has led to an 'in principle' agreement that wherever possible, companies tendering for large States contracts should be asked to report on their commitment to training and the number of new training places they would make available should they win the contract.

The aim is to ensure that companies seeking States contracts are encouraged to consider the extent to which their activities can support the creation of training opportunities within their sector of activity.

According to the Chairman of the Skills Board...it make obvious sense, at a time when a large amount of States fiscal stimulus money is being used to provide work experience placements for job seekers, that companies obtaining significant States contracts should be encouraged to use the opportunity that the additional work brings to invest in the recruitment of trainees and the development of their own staff.

New Advance to Work and Advance Plus statistics

Currently active on ATW Scheme	139
Total number on scheme since September 2009	419
Total who have moved into Paid employment*	160

Advance Plus successes: These are short training programmes to re-skill and re-motivate job seekers in specific areas of work

Current & Recent Schemes:

Advance to Administration: February – April 2011	14 delegates – 10 employed, 7 of which were with their placement employers.
Advance to Retail & Hospitality: April – June 2011	13 delegates – starting placements May 3rd
Advance to Bookkeeping & Finance	9 delegates– starting placements May 3rd
Advance to Construction	Starting 16 th May. Interviews to be held early May. Expected 12 delegates
Advance to Graduate Finance	Starting 4 th July. 12-14 delegates.

Research into barriers to continued employment of people reaching retirement age

The Skills Board has recently agreed to commission research into the barriers to continued employment of people reaching retirement age. Local research and consultancy firms are shortly to be asked to tender for this work to be advertised via the States internet procurement portal. It is envisaged that, when completed, the research will be used to raise employer awareness of the skills and attitudes that older workers can bring to the workplace and to help inform older workers of the possibility of continued working or self-employment beyond retirement age.

'People are living longer and staying fitter but at the same time, in recent years, the trend has been towards a diminution in the value of pensions over the past few years. In the future automatic retirement at a certain age may have to be re-placed by more flexible arrangements which take account for changing circumstances. The Skills Board has determined to commission this research in order to ensure that employers and the public have access to the information they need to consider options and make appropriate decisions.' (quote Richard Plaster Chairman of the Skills Board)

Enhanced Employment Service

An enhanced employment service is now available to unemployed residents who are registered with the Social Security Department as unemployed. This service provides Personal Advisers who assist jobseekers in overcoming the barriers they face in entering the labour market. Early analysis of the service would seem to indicate that the intervention of the Personal Adviser is having the effect of motivating people to engage with the Department and the Work Zone and there has been a good level of customers returning to work after some degree of intervention from an Adviser. 49 people have returned to work during April as a result of the new service. The table below provides a breakdown of the number of people in client groups that secured employment during April.

Group	No. back to work	No. on IS ASW	% of group back to work
16 – 24	21	416	5
25+ on IS for less than 6 months	13	303	4.3
25+ on IS for more than 6 months	15	267	5.6

The breakdown of employment sectors of those returning to work is as follows:

Retail	9
Hospitality	6
Labourer	5
Administration	5
Building/Construction	5

The Work Zone is currently using an outsourced company to provide an employment skills strengthening programme, which includes CV workshops, mock interviews, occupational profiling and interview skills support. Furthermore, unemployed customers are referred to other agencies (such as ATW) which provide services under the remit of Skills Jersey to ensure appropriate training and development can be given to those who require it.

For further information please contact:

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