

The Sector Skills Council for Lifelong Learning

National employers sign up to help long term benefit claimants back into work

Seven major employers have signed up to a Local Employment Partnership (LEP) to help get long term benefit claimants back into work, announced Peter Hain, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The companies - Aramark Ltd, Randstad Inhouse Services, Reliance Security Services Ltd, Rullion All Trades, Skanska Group Ltd, Spirit Group and Starwood Hotel and Resort Worldwide Inc - join 266 organisations that have already committed to LEPs, working with Jobcentre Plus to support some of the hardest to help off benefits and into work. [Read more](#) (Wired Gov)

Employers in education overlook skills and experience of refugees

Schools and colleges in London are missing out on the knowledge, skills and experience of hundreds of potential teachers who have come to the United Kingdom as refugees when they fill job vacancies, the head of a task force said. Dr Robert Garnett, co-chair of the Refugee Teachers Task Force, said refugees seeking to work as teaching assistants and in administrative posts also face barriers arising from uncertainty and lack of experience in dealing with the issues among employers. [Read more](#) (Wired-Gov)

National Skills Forum highlights need for investment in training for older people

The investment in training for older people is of "paramount importance," the National Skills Forum has said on the eve of the anniversary of Lord Leitch's Review of Skills. The forum, a body that brings together parliamentarians, key stakeholders and leading policy makers, warned that more than a million workers are over the statutory pension age, while a quarter of working people are over 50. And by 2020 this figure will have risen to a third. [Read more](#) (Personnel Today)

LSC launches fifth apprenticeship awards

The search is on for the nation's top apprentice employers as the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) launches its fifth annual Apprenticeship Awards. Employers of all sizes and from all sectors of industry are encouraged to enter the prestigious national awards. Speaking at the launch event in London this week, Skills Minister David Lammy MP, said: "Apprenticeships are integral to combating the nation's skills shortages. They stimulate innovation, give businesses the skills they need and provide opportunities for individuals to fulfil their potential. [Read more](#) (FE News)

DIUS Secretary of State praises union-led learning

On Tuesday 4th December, the Right Honourable John Denham MP, DIUS Secretary of State spoke alongside TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber and TUC Deputy General Secretary Frances O'Grady at a unionlearn conference held at the Mermaid Conference Centre in Central London. John Denham presented eight

prestigious unionlearn Quality Awards to providers in the learning world who are committed to working with trade unions. [Read more](#) (Unionlearn)

Northern Ireland - Achieve your goals with essential skills

Employment and Learning Minister Sir Reg Empey has urged all those with literacy and numeracy difficulties to brush up on their Essential Skills. Statistics show that one in four adults in Northern Ireland have numeracy and literacy problems and the Department for Employment and Learning's Essential Skills programme has been developed to enable those experiencing such difficulties to take the challenge, set themselves a goal and sign up for a course today. [Read more](#) (DELNI)

Book launch in Wales: The collaborative state – how working together can transform public services

Date of Event: 10/12/2007 Following a successful event in London, Andrew Davies, Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery will host the Welsh launch of 'The Collaborative State', the latest publication from Demos, one of the UK's leading social policy think tanks. The book's editor Simon Parker, a senior researcher at Demos will present on the theme of "working together to transform public services". 'The Collaborative State' is a collection of essays by leading thinkers and practitioners assessing how far we have already gone towards increased collaboration and asks how in the future collaboration can be used as a key principle in transforming public services.

Challenge set for Global Scots

Scotland's international diaspora have been encouraged to play a major part in boosting the country's economic growth. At the first regional conference of the Globalscot network in New York, Mr Swinney said expatriot Scots working overseas can make a significant contribution to the Government's target of matching UK economic growth by 2011. Globalscot is a unique high level international business network whose purpose is to support sustainable growth of the Scottish economy. [Read more](#) (Scottish Government)

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

Policy Initiative & Region	Detail	Timescales
Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'Careers education, information, advice & guidance strategy'	To make policy proposals for the future development of Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) and to set out a strategy that will address the CEIAG needs of individuals of all ages.	Closing 14 December 2007
Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'FE Means Business'	Policy Proposals for: Curriculum Provision in Further Education Colleges to Support the Economy; Curriculum Provision in Further Education Colleges to Support Social Inclusion and Provision in Further Education Colleges for 16 to 19 Year Old Learners. Visit the DELNI website	Closing 7 January 2008

<p>Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland 'Review of Higher Education in Further Education policies, including Foundation degrees'</p>	<p>This consultation seeks views on the Department for Employment and Learning's recommendations for the future of Higher Education in the Further Education sector, including recommendations for the development and delivery of Foundation Degrees. Visit the DELNI website</p>	<p>Closing 7 January 2008</p>
<p>DIUS - Improvement in the Further Education Sector – A consultative prospectus for a new sector-owned organisation.</p>	<p>John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills has announced the coming together of QIA and CEL to form an entirely new organisation dedicated to developing and supporting the excellent further education sector employers, learners and communities need. Through this joint DIUS / CEL / QIA consultation we invite those who lead and work in further education to help us shape and steer an entirely new organisation. Visit the DIUS website</p>	<p>Closing 25th January 2008</p>

For further information or to subscribe to this publication please e-mail:
zoevipond@lluk.org

