

Hospitality urged to use Government schemes to boost jobs

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The employment minister today urged hospitality employers to take advantage of the multitude of available Government schemes to stimulate the jobs market.

Speaking at the Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism Breakfast, hosted by sector skills council **People 1st** and **Jobcentre Plus** in London, **Jim Knight** said businesses must continue taking advantage of Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs), apprenticeship schemes, work trials and pre-employment **training**.

"We need employers to work with us to stimulate recruitment, to develop apprenticeship schemes, and by offering that first chance to really change people's lives," he said.

Under the LEP initiative, employers pledge to give job interviews and work placements to unemployed people specially trained by Jobcentres Plus. For more information visit www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/up

Some of the UK's leading employers have pledged their support to get people back to work. The National Employment partnership (NEP) has been asked by the government to:

- ✿ Advertise their non-specialists vacancies through Jobcentre Plus
- ✿ Fill more of their vacancies through Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs)
- ✿ Continue to offer advice on helping people facing redundancy and the newly unemployed back into work as soon as possible through the skills system
- ✿ Promote the development of the skills Britain needs for the recovery, including increasing apprenticeships, taking up Government subsidies and sustaining employer investment in workforce skills

Go to www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/employers for more information

Employer Offer for your new recruits

Jobcentre Plus is now offering employers £1,000 whenever you recruit someone who has been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for six months or more.

To qualify the new employee simply needs to work an average of 16 hours per week for a minimum 26 week period. In work training, worth £1,500, may also be available through our partners to help employers get the most from your new recruits and your current employees. Don't miss out. For more information visit: www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/£1000

These proposals are just part of the £500m invested by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and (BIS) THE Department for Business, Innovation and Skills over 2 years

Knight said the Government was still on track to meet its original target of creating 250,000 jobs through LEPs by April 2010 – to date 150,000 have been created.

"Clearly what we have got is working," he said. "We are on target at the moment. In fact, I think we are slightly ahead of schedule."

Michelle Luxford, HR director of **Travelodge**, who last year initiated the 'Going Forward' pre-employment training scheme with Jobcentre Plus, told delegates the project had helped recruit 57 young people and had improved retention rates at the company by 8%.

"This was a way of widening our talent pool and getting higher retention figures, and I think that's something worth going for," she said.

Jez Langorn, head of talent and education at **McDonald's**, revealed that since the launch of LEPs at the fast-food chain in March this year, 300 people were either on the scheme or have been through it, and 50 people have been hired.

[Travelodge recruits two thirds from LEP programme >>](#)

[McDonald's extends long-term unemployed pledge nationwide >>](#)

[Marriott signs deal with JobCentre Plus >>](#)

[Compass Group signs up to Local Employment Partnership >>](#)

[Roast restaurant pledges job to long-term unemployed >>](#)

By Kat Baker

This first appeared on Caterersearch sister website PersonnelToday.com

Backing Young Britain

Long-term youth unemployment will almost **treble** between now and the end of 2011 says a report from the Centre for Cities. With the number of young people unemployed in the UK at 945,000, further increases are going to be hard felt. Areas that the report cite as being particularly vulnerable include Milton Keynes, Swindon and Sunderland and Barnsley.

The £1 Billion Future Jobs Fund announced in the 2009 Budget aims to create 150,000 new jobs between 2009-2011 for young people unemployed for more than 10 months, but the report claims this will help less than half the young people due to join the dole queues

HIT Training in the East, South West and London with its partner organisation EYS is just about to commence pre-employment training via the Routeways to Work. This programme has the full backing of the Sector Skills Councils and People 1st the Hospitality Skills Sector Council have developed a comprehensive training package and this along with the uksp website means the sector is seen to be leading the way in helping young people into work

HIT would encourage employers to actively support the young person's guarantee by offering Apprenticeship and employment opportunities wherever possible. Growing your own talent and working with inexperienced personnel is not necessarily the easy option, but it is estimated that the Hospitality sector¹ will require by 2017, an additional 1,063,000 additional personnel (of which 855,000 will be replacement demand, i.e. replacing those people leaving the labour market), the sector needs to think long and hard about where these people will come from, if they do not come from the younger generation.

Jonathan Raggett, Catey's Hotelier of the Year 2009, has said he will use the award to encourage and persuade people to enter into Hospitality. The Red Carnations Hotels are an excellent example of a business engaging with young people and HIT Training is enormously grateful for their continued support

¹ Based on People 1st research