

BUILDING SITES

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Business Southampton

Hyde Martlet Housing Association

Wheatsheaf Trust

SAFE

Economic Development & Regeneration, SCC

Young People & Community Support, SCC

Southampton City Primary Care Trust

Southampton Jobcentre Plus

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce my first SITES bulletin since taking over the role of Chair of the SITES partnership.

SITES partners have an important role to play in ensuring that Southampton residents get the support they need to return to work. This is even more vital as the recession bites and unemployment continues to rise. The current total is 6,651, or 6.2% of our workforce registered as unemployed. The level of worklessness is not changing significantly.

As the new chair of the SITES board I will be seeking to ensure that we are better co-ordinated in our response locally and that we take advantage of all opportunities to support people getting back to work, whether that's through implementing the government's new Future Jobs Fund programme which you can read about in this edition, or continuing to support local people into jobs through the major developments as they come on stream.



Dawn Baxendale
Assistant Chief Executive
Southampton City Council

SITES is a partnership of local agencies and organisations who provide employment and training support to Southampton residents.

The current focus of the SITES network is to tackle the key issues of reducing high levels of worklessness across the city, particularly to meet skills shortages, reaching those living in Priority Neighbourhoods, and engaging employers in the worklessness agenda.

It is overseen by a board of around 20 members, with representatives from each key sector that contributes to achieving the aims of SITES.

Functions of SITES:

Support to partners	Support to individuals
Marketing	Job Search
Funding Opportunities	Coordination
Supported employment	Recruitment
Training	Negotiation with developers and employers to generate jobs for local residents

**If you have any news/success stories you would like to share or promote to other Southampton providers, please email them to:
jenny.hunt@southampton.gov.uk**

Graduate Jobs South

Graduate Jobs South (GJS) Southampton Solent University

Graduate Jobs South (GJS) is the university supported initiative that helps to create employment benefits for our students and graduates, small businesses and the local economy in these challenging times.

Southampton Solent University is the lead partner in the initiative with the University of Southampton and the University of Winchester as additional partners. GJS encourages students to find placements, internships and graduate level jobs while they study, and to promote and find opportunities for graduates to remain or return to the region after graduation to work for local companies, helping to grow the regional economy.

GJS advertises opportunities and businesses from the 'South central' area of the UK, i.e. the counties and towns of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey and Sussex.

The site has over 100 opportunities from a range of employment areas listed at any one time as well as an online 'Business Directory' of over 700 organisations, a fantastic resource for students to research regional employers and the local labour market.

The work of GJS is even more important at the current time in helping our graduates find employment, whilst helping our businesses survive the recession and help South Hampshire's economy fight the downturn and achieve future growth.

Recent GJS successes have included a local restaurant taking on a Solent graduate as a marketing intern and the NHS using the site to promote their Pilot Communications Graduate Management Training Scheme for the South East Coast.

Employers, students and graduates can register on the site:

www.graduatejobssouth.co.uk.

For further information please get in touch with Meredith Pollock either by email meredith.pollock@solent.ac.uk or phone 023 8031 9734

Mpowerme

Mpowerme

Mpowerme offers confidence coaching and training for all people, both individuals and teams within businesses. The courses are run by Janet Ashfield.

The latest training programme covers:

- The Life Experience Advancement Programme LEAP
- Managing Stress and Time Management
- The Highly Sensitive Professional HSP

Testimonials are available to view at www.mpowerme.co.uk and give a good reflection of the value of such training and coaching to both employers and staff. The programme offers a free initial health check with companies/organisations to see what the issues are or what development they would like to see within their staff. From this information a programme is developed specifically for them. The programme has helped in instances where staff are not functioning well due to "team issues", or a person is suffering from stress and not managing pressure through to lack of communication skills etc within the team.

Projects

Future Jobs Fund

Mpowerme continued...

Mpowerme has established that there are often many aspects that the team need to address. The coach will go in to an office and ask the questions no one else will and can facilitate having those conversations that no one wants to have, enabling people to move on. People who have been off sick long term have been supported back into work.

Please contact Janet Ashfield if you would like to find out more or you wish to book a place on one of the courses on offer.

More information can be found on the website:

<http://www.mpowerme.co.uk> or telephone 023 8061 8388.

Successful Future Jobs Fund bid

Southampton has been successful in securing £1.7 million from its joint bid to the Future Jobs Fund.

The Future Jobs Fund was one of the measures announced in the 2009 Budget, where the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) identified funding for up to 10,000 apprenticeships/jobs in the South East region.

It is anticipated that the programme will operate from October 2009.

Summary of bid:

1. The Southampton element of the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) bid is part of a wider PUSH application, which in turn is part of the county wide application submitted by Hampshire County Council.
2. The beneficiaries will be 18 – 24 year olds in Southampton who have been in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance for 6 – 12 months.
3. Additional FJF round 2 and 3 jobs are being evaluated for specific priority groups, and further bids can be expected early in 2010.
4. The Southampton application comprised a partnership between;
 - The Southampton Skills Development Zone – SSDZ (Southampton University Health Trust, Southampton City Primary Care Trust, Southampton Solent University and Southampton City Council)
 - W heatsheaf Trust, who will employ and deliver up to 146 apprentices and jobs over the three FJF rounds, placing them with Hyde Martlett and Swaythling Housing Associations, local employers and social enterprises.
 - Groundwork Solent, who intend to offer 30 jobs on environmental projects in the city.
5. The jobs/apprenticeships will include:
 - Clerical and Administration
 - Care
 - Construction (brickwork and painting/decorating), landscaping and forestry
 - Community engagement
 - Homecheck (security, insulation, fire alarms) and public realm
 - Retail and social enterprise

If you would like more information please contact John Connelly, on 023 8083 4402.

Regional Economic outlook

SEEDA Regional report

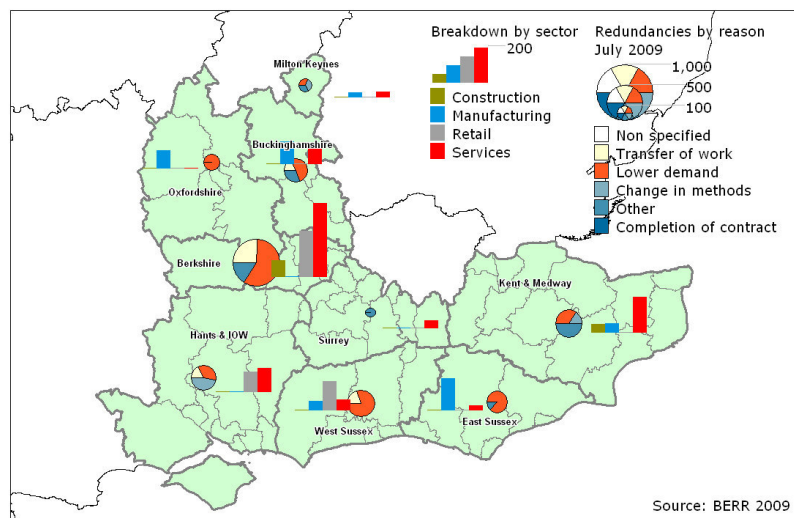
Regional Intelligence Snapshot for the South East

SEEDA issue a regular bulletin on the economic situation for the region. Some of the key issues for the South East identified in the months to July are summarised below:

Business activity in the South East continued a pattern of decline for the 12th consecutive month. The rate of contraction was the sharpest since March 2009. This is in contrast to the UK as a whole, where business activity increased at the fastest rate since March 2008. The level of redundancy notifications decreased in July, from a figure of 3,500 in June down to 2,200.

In July the number of redundancies in the retail sector was at 500 almost double the figure reported in June. The retail sector accounted for approximately 1/4 of all notifications in June, as did manufacturing.

Numbers of Jobseekers Allowance claimants in the South East increased in June by 1,500. Hampshire and IOW have reported significantly fewer redundancies in July than in June 2009.



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Manufacturing: Employment in this sector continues to fall but at a slower pace, than the beginning of the year. According to a survey by Business Link in June, more than 50% of manufacturing companies are seeing more customers paying late. There were 670 large redundancy notifications in manufacturing in June a fall from 713 in May. There are signs the effects of the recession may be bottoming out, as destocking nears an end, with the rate of decline in output and new orders improving in some sub-sectors.

Automotive: Car sales are on the rise, although there is greatest demand for small and relatively cheap cars. Stagetruck, the trucking firm with 60 vehicles and 80 staff is to seek planning permission for a new HQ at Micheldever near Winchester.

In **Retail**, larger stores are still generally doing better than smaller retailers. Lidl has revealed it has plans to build a new distribution centre at Wade Park Farm just outside Southampton.

The **telecommunications sector** has seen the sharpest rise in redundancy alongside manufacturing in the South East in recent months.

Hotels and conferences are seeing a reduction in uptake of their facilities due to companies cutting back on discretionary activities. The warm weather in June and an increasing number of international visitors have supported budget hotels and facilities which are still performing ok. In Southampton, Development Securities have submitted plans to build a £35 million six-storey hotel and seven-storey office block in the city centre, creating up to 350 jobs.

More details can be found at:

www.seeda.org.uk

Labour market statistics

Labour market statistics

Southampton and UK Labour market Statistics

In Southampton, the number of people out of work in the city has reached over 6,600 with the number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants reaching 6,651. This is an increase of almost 85.5% since July 2008.

There are now more than five unemployed people for every job vacancy in the city.

Vacancies notified at Jobcentre Plus fell to 1,287 in July 2009 which is 46 less than there were 12 months ago.

The economic activity rate to December 2008 was 78.4% and the employment rate 74.7%.

UK statistics:

Unemployment in the UK is now at its highest level since the summer of 1995. The data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance increased by 24,900 in July to 1.58 million - its worst level for more than 12 years.

This marks the 17th month in a row where the claimant count has increased.

The jobless total has reached 2,435,000

Youth unemployment rose by 46,000 to 722,000, while the number of people out of work for longer than a year remained at an 11-year high, up by 36,000 to 543,000. The Office for National Statistics said the number of people in work fell by 271,000 between April and June to 28.9 million after a fall of 0.9% in the employment rate to 72.7%. This is the same rate seen earlier this year.

But there was some good news, with a slowdown in the number of redundancies - down by 9,000 quarter-on-quarter to 277,000 in the three months to June, although this was up 150,000 on a year earlier.

Vacancies fell to a record low of 427,000 in the three months to July, down by 26,000 on the previous quarter and 203,000 on a year ago.

Manufacturing jobs fell again, by 212,000 year-on-year to 2.66 million in the three months to June, which remained at the lowest since records began in 1978

The number of people classed as economically inactive, including those on long-term sick leave, increased by 127,000 in the latest quarter to 7.95 million.

Average earnings increased by 2.5% in the year to June, up 0.2% from the three months to May.

New Initiatives

Redundancy help

Eastleigh College Helps Companies Facing Redundancy

In October last year, the Government announced an important package of measures in response to the current economic downturn. As part of this package, Eastleigh College has been working with employers across the South to help those affected by redundancy.

In March this year, the College started working with the Ford Motor company, based in Southampton, to provide a series of training sessions offering advice, guidance and retraining to workers affected by changes in employment. As a result of this success Eastleigh College has become the leader of a new partnership group, set up to provide employers cross the South with bespoke 'Response to Redundancy' programmes.

Funded through the European Social Fund (ESF), programmes have been designed to help both employers and employees tackle issues of redundancy by offering a range of relevant advice, guidance and training sessions to staff. With the aim of preparing those facing the prospect of redundancy to re-enter employment, the programme should enable individuals to continue making a positive contribution to the local labour market.

Mathew Phelps, Head of Business Development for Eastleigh College commented:

"Unfortunately, as issues of redundancy become increasingly common, it is important that employers manage the process correctly and are able to offer as much help and advice as possible to those affected. Interestingly we have seen a very positive response from staff facing redundancy once they start to examine the options open to them in terms of retraining or developing their existing skills."

Eastleigh College has recently begun working closely with a large company which produces communication systems, to provide a response programme which focuses on key skills such as CV writing, interview techniques and job searching. Although the programme has only recently started, several members of staff have already been successful in finding new employment as the result of these training courses. If your business would like help or advice relating to issues of redundancy, please contact the Business Development Team on 023 8091 1195 or visit: www.eastleigh.ac.uk for more information.

Jobcentre Plus Customer events

Jobcentre Plus Event for Day 1 customers - 10th September 2009

Jobcentre Plus will be holding the first in a series of events designed to inform its customers of the new programmes of support available from JCP.

The first event, for day 1 customers (newly unemployed), is being held at the Wheatsheaf Trust (2nd floor), 24 Bernard Street, Southampton SO14 3AY. It will run from 9:30am to 1:30pm and parking is available nearby at the NCP car park. Local employment support providers and partners will also be there to offer customers the opportunity to speak with advisers and find out what support services or training options are available to them.

The aim of the event is to target customer groups each month, covering all customer groups and any potential barriers that could affect customers returning to employment.

Please inform any clients you have who would benefit from attending.

For more information please contact Rachel Hawkins at Jobcentre Plus, email:

RACHEL.HAWKINS@JOBCENTREPLUS.GSI.GOV.UK

jobcentreplus

Funding

ESF Community Grants

South East Region Community Grants programme

The next deadline for the South East Region Community Grants programme is on **21st September 2009**. The programme is funded by the Learning & Skills Council and European Social Fund (ESF) and managed by Surrey Community Action in partnership with Community Action Hampshire. Applications are invited from voluntary and community groups providing services in Hampshire to support the most disadvantaged individuals not in employment to access further learning opportunities or progress to employment. Grants of up to £12,000 are available and priority will be given to groups who work with: lone parents, women, people with health/disability issues, older people (50 years plus), ethnic minorities and diverse communities. Further information can also be found at

http://www.esf2008-2011-se.org.uk/community_grants.htm

Examples of project activities:

- Initial help for people who need support with basic skills or for whom English is a second language.
- Training in new skills or skills development.
- Helping people with confidence building and personal development through training courses, coaching/mentoring or peer group support.
- Assisting people with job searches, including CV and interview support.
- Providing taster work experience including voluntary work or arranging such placements.
- Helping people with first contact engagement activities, e.g. to provide support to individuals to help them overcome barriers to learning and/or employment.

Contact details

Have we got your correct contact details? To ensure we have accurate records of your contact details please confirm your details by either sending the slip below to:

Jenny Hunt, Economic Development & Regeneration, Southampton City Council, Ground Floor, Southbrook Rise, 4-8 Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG

or call 023 8083 3010. This information will only be used for the purposes of the SITES scheme and will not be released to third parties.

CONTACT NAME _____

ORGANISATION NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____