

EMPLOYER FOCUS

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THE LEARNING AGREEMENT PILOT (LAP)

We are very pleased to formally confirm that Ministers have agreed to extend the Learning Agreement Pilot for a further year - the end date will now be 31 March 2009. You will recall that this pilot programme, which is jointly managed by the Learning and Skills Council and the Connexions Service, was introduced in 2006 to test whether a range of incentives would encourage employers and young employees (aged 16/17) to participate in specific types of learning. Different 'incentive packages' were tested in different areas of the country.

One significant change is going to be made to the pilot as we move forward into the 08/09 financial year. Ministers have decided that the wage compensation element of the programme will cease from 31 March 2008. It has been concluded that this element has been fully tested and the results do not justify its continuation.

Other than this change, the pilot will continue as before, employers and employees will both be able to access a bonus of £250 on successful completion of the agreement. The other rules and regulations that apply to the Learning Agreement Pilot will continue as before.

A very positive note from **Kevin Wilson of G C Air Conditioning in Stockport** has recently been received when he was asked these questions

- **Has being involved in the LAP Pilot made any difference to your organisation**

"We have as a company been involved with many training schemes, some worked as envisaged, some fell short of expectations, this LAP was a success for us and the trainee."

- **How did the payment of incentives impact on your decision to be/stay involved?**

"Our main incentive is for our young employees to enjoy and benefit from controlled training schemes. The addition of a financial incentive is always a nice bonus"

- **What impact has the pilot had on your approach to learning/training, and plans for the future?**

"It has maintained our commitment to training our staff."

WHY EMPLOY A YOUNG PERSON?

You can develop young people to have the skills and experience that suit your business.

One of our many satisfied employers, **Nigel Hockin of GBS Joinery in Edgeley, Stockport**, has been absolutely thrilled with the young person he took on through Connexions.

He quotes *"He has been a perfect employee, he started as a Joiners Assistant and has now progressed to spraying windows. We are providing training for him and he is always keen to learn. He shows great initiative and always works hard. He is an attribute to the company and a valued member of staff."*

OUR SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS + TRAINING PROVIDERS

E-mail: vacancies@connexions-stockport.co.uk

www.connexions-stockport.org.uk

Besides a **free vacancy advertising service**, we can help you with most employment related issues or refer you to an organisation who can.

We can also offer you information and advice on developing your workforce.

If you have a vacancy to advertise with us, please complete the vacancy pro-forma overleaf and post/fax or e-mail it to us or simply pick up the phone and talk to us about it!

FREE VACANCY ADVERTISING

Connexions can advertise vacancies in Stockport schools and colleges as well as in our Connexions Centre and on our vacancy website cnx2jobs.com.

***Please note** - Employers can now complete an online vacancy request form on the above website

SCHOOL LEAVERS

***Please note** the official school leaving date for 2008 is 27th June and school leavers cannot legally be employed until after this date.

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