

ESF

in the East Midlands



NEW ESF WEBSITE GOES LIVE

Jim Knight MP, the newly appointed Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform launched the new ESF works website, www.esf-works.com/ which features an East Midlands page, as previewed in previous ESF newsletters.

ESF Works

Home > East Midlands

East Midlands home | Events | Project showcase

East Midlands Welcome!

The East Midlands is the fourth largest region in the UK, yet has the second smallest population (4.2 million people). Around 80% of the population live outside the main cities of Derby, Lincoln, Nottingham and Leicester, in the rural regions of Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland.

The ESF Programme for England 2007-2013 is investing £376 million in the East Midlands, and over 50 providers across the region are already offering over 90 projects designed to boost skills and job chances for individuals.

ESF in East Midlands is delivered through three Co-financing Organisations: the Learning and Skills Council East Midlands, the Department for Work and Pensions, and a Local Authorities Consortium (Lincolnshire County, Derby City, Derbyshire County and Leicester City councils). The Government Office for the East Midlands oversees the programme.

About the region

Key challenges

Employment rates for the region are high, but earnings are low by comparison, and there are more occupations with lower skills needs. The majority of sectors have high levels of employees without Level 2 qualifications, amounting to over 50,000 people.

With fewer young people, and a rising number of older people, the labour force will need to rely on less-well-qualified older people. It will be important to increase new entrants to the labour market, and to identify the skills required to maintain competitiveness, especially in an international market. Disadvantage, deprivation and unemployment are concentrated in the same areas of the region: the cities, the coalfields, Corby and eastern Lincolnshire. There has been increased participation for both Level 2 and Level 3, but NEET figures are also rising.

Facts and figures

	East Midlands	UK
Population	4.36m	60.5m
Productivity (GVA per hour worked)	96.7	100
Employment rate as % of working age population	74.7	74.4
Skills level of economically active adults qualified to Level 4	28.1	31.1

Source: National Statistics regional snapshot. Updated May 2008. Note: Regional snapshot tables and text are updated annually on a rolling basis; at any time they may not reflect the latest data available on the topic elsewhere on the National Statistics web site.

Regional priorities

Priority 1 for the East Midlands is to promote:

- a highly and appropriately skilled workforce via employment, learning and skills
- economic inclusion, aiming to overcome the barriers or market failures that prevent people from participating fully in the regional and local economy.

Priority 1 is particularly aimed at people who have lost their jobs because of the recession, the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, lone parents, the homeless, ex-offenders and people lacking the basic skills needed to get a job.

Priority 2 focuses on:

- up-skilling and qualifying those in work for better-quality employment
- equipping more people of all ages with the skills to take up employment and aspire to better jobs.

An important aspect of the region is the former coalfield area in North Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. ESF is playing a key role in the regeneration of these areas by providing more opportunities for the workforce.

Regional news

Did you know? Interesting facts about the East Midlands

Upcoming project visits:

- Future Focus, Market Rasen, 15 July 2009
- Care Training, Calverton
- Sporting Chance, Bassetlaw
- Shaw Trust, Clowne
- Brighter Future Plus, Daventry
- Connexions, Derby

Sub-regions

Projects visits in the region are being made now; they will be added to the national and regional project showcase pages soon.

[View all projects](#)

Regional coordinator

Pat Maurice, ESF-Works Regional Coordinator (Midlands)

Pat's experience ranges across the healthcare and educational sectors. She spent a number of years as managing editor in humanities and social sciences for Cambridge University Press, prior to which she managed a NHS Task Force helping hospital trusts achieve government targets for reducing junior doctors' hours. [Read more](#)

Contact: pat.maurice@tribalgroup.co.uk

TRIAL | About us | Terms of use | Privacy | Feedback | Links

A live, on-line interview took place, where the minister focused on how the ESF programme is contributing to the Government's policies to provide real help to people affected by the economic downturn.



The Minister welcomed the role that ESF Works will play in sharing good practice and responded to questions from ESF managers across the country.

"The challenges of the recession are having a significant impact here in the UK on unemployment. So this has to be the priority as to how we use the ESF money.

Most people who become unemployed, after being made redundant may be in the position to get themselves back into work, but there are some who need more help, for example, training towards new skills. And that's really how we've designed the various ESF schemes.

Alongside this, we need to look at how we affect the integration of skills and employment programmes more thoroughly. We need to raise the general level of skills, particularly in those areas of the economy where they are really needed."

New ESF booklets and DVDs, which compliment the website launch, are now available. Contact your LSC contract manager for copies.

To contribute stories and information to the website continue to contact:

Jo Sheppard

0115 971 2781

jo.sheppard@coi.gsi.gov.uk

Provider of the Month

ESF HELPS GILLIAN TAKE CARE OF HER CONFIDENCE

Gillian Sanderson, 33, from Nottingham had always lacked confidence. This stemmed from being bullied at school for wearing a huge plaster cast following a back operation. Gillian also had speech therapy when she was younger and still has an impediment. She went on to work in catering and hospitality where she was disillusioned and wasn't making the most of her skills.

However, in just over three months with Tribal on the ESF and LSC East Midlands Skills for Jobs project, Gillian regained her confidence and found a job in June as a community centre caretaker.

Gillian soon started to feel more positive and just ten days after her first meeting with adviser **Yvonne Walton** she had an 'new-found inner self worth and confidence'.

Yvonne worked with Gillian to revise her CV and found that she had been underselling herself and had a whole range of key skills which could be used in a variety of work not just catering. Gillian describes her revamped CV, "It looked so amazing that I could have cried!"

Yvonne said, "By talking through her day to day work activities we could pick out dozens of key skills. In the end, her CV ran to three pages long so we had the luxury of picking out the highlights."

With this confidence boost, her new CV was sent out to prospective employers. Gillian also began volunteering at an after school club which she said was due to her new-found confidence. She also benefitted from one of Tribal's training courses and now has a certificate in Level 2 Awareness in Health and Safety.



And Gillian's new role as a caretaker may traditionally be a male one, but Gillian reckons that as a woman, she can bring even more to the job, "With my social skills that were essential when I worked in the hospitality trade, I can help people feel more at home and look after everyone."

I have already recommended Skills for Jobs to others and think more people need to hear about it as its helped turn my life around.

Now I'm looking ahead to my long-term career, as I've realised from previous voluntary roles with schools and youth clubs that I really want to work with children and would love to get into childcare."

And as her adviser comments, "The world is Gillian's oyster. She is due to learn even more new skills under LSC's train to gain programme, which we at Tribal also run."

T R I B A L



Adviser, Yvonne taking a break with Gillian

Tribal contact:

Louise Mounteney Tel: 0845 094 3140

Louise.mounteney@tribalgroupp.co.uk

LSC contact:

Chris Carrington Tel: 07768 827613

Chris.carrington@lsc.gov.uk

County focus - Nottinghamshire

Getting to the Grassroots

Community Grants is yet another way ESF and LSC East Midlands are helping the community improve its skills and job prospects. Earlier this March, grassroots organisations had the chance to apply for up to £10,000 and now sixteen not-for-profit community groups in Nottinghamshire alone are raring to go and recruiting for participants.

Some of the projects due to get off the ground include:

- A project run by Safari Catering services which aims to engage women from ethnic minority communities by learning how to prepare and cook African foods which will help boost self-esteem.
- Amity Members Group project has its green fingers at the ready to run a gardening skills course aimed at people with mental health issues. Informal learning, increase in confidence and promoting healthy eating will be just some of the benefits.
- A Newark-based personal development course for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and incest. This project will help them improve assertiveness, confidence building, lifting self esteem, maintaining relationships and managing anger and frustration.
- A comprehensive information, advice and guidance session for the local Polish community. This project aims to help people gain a better understanding of the UK employment market and will



Preparing and cooking African foods at Safari Catering

signpost people to further learning or employment opportunities.

- A project to learn new media skills by designing and creating billboards on the theme of career aspirations. These will then be presented at an event at Nottingham's Council House. The project is being run by Windrush Alliance and is aimed at helping young people from ethnic minority groups increase job skills.

Voluntary sector group, Enable is overseeing these projects on behalf of the LSC. Their ESF community grants officer, **Melanie Phythian**, describes why these projects are so important,

"These projects are all about targeting disadvantaged and often hard to reach members of the community and finding ways to improve their skills and confidence, which will ultimately help them find better jobs in the future.

We have just launched round two of the community grants scheme and hope to get the next batch of projects off the ground early next year."

enable ▶▶

ESF Community contact:
Melanie Phythian
Tel: 0115 934 9505
melaniep@enable.uk.net



...green fingers at the ready

County focus - Lincolnshire

ESF helps Paul's new business hit the road

Paul returned to Lincolnshire after living in Spain with the dream of running a car mechanic business in Holbeach.

He was referred to TNG's JobMAET's project and its sister company InBiz, who offer business start-up advice and support. Paul was provided up to date, accurate and timely information on the current rules and regulations for self employment. He then

discovered new guidelines that he would have to meet before he could make his wish a reality, such as registering his business online.

Paul's plans are now well and truly on the road and his business is registered with the Inland Revenue as a vehicle mechanic. He says, "It is the best thing that I've achieved for a long time and I am extremely happy with the assistance from TNG and InBiz."

Helping job chances grow in new directions

Highly experienced landscape gardener **Neil** from Grantham was unfortunately made redundant. This prompted him to make a career change as he had always wanted to pursue a career in care.

TNG's JobMAET's project investigated the volunteer sector as a route for Neil to gain experience and qualifications in care work. He was given information

about Boston, Grantham and Lincoln colleges and their basic, diploma and advanced courses in caring.

Neil worked with advisers at TNG who helped him to update his CV and he was advised to set-up an e-mail address. He has been offered a job as a yardsman while he continues his search for a career in care.

ESF leads Patricia to canine confidence boost

Patricia from Grantham had suffered from low self-esteem for years. She thought she had failed at school and had therefore failed as a person.

She came to TNG's JobMAET's project knowing she needed to do something about it. Her adviser identified her goals and two things stood out:

- her love of animals and their welfare
- the need to address her fears of literacy and numeracy.

Patricia was advised about a placement as a volunteer for a local animal charity who were looking for dog walkers.

Unfortunately, Patricia had an accident and injured her knee and so this work has been put on hold, but it still gave her the confidence boost she needed.



Undaunted, Patricia is making great progress on her literacy and IT skills after being referred to learndirect for one to one support. Patricia comments;

"It is fantastic that I can spell the smallest of words. I did not know that computers were here to help someone like me. I think it is truly wonderful".

County focus Northamptonshire

Promotion after 26 years thanks to ESF

A Northampton mother now has her career all wrapped up after overcoming dyslexia and gaining the skills to win promotion - after being in the job for 26 years.

The ESF Train to Gain project, run by Tresham Institute Business Solutions and Options 2 Workplace Learning, has helped **Goretti Mannion**, 57, from Northampton get promotion to become a trainer after 26 years as a factory operator, packaging sandwiches for M&S and British Airways.

She always felt embarrassed by her lack of skills and ability, particularly her dyslexia. Her son Matthew, who is at university is also dyslexic, so it is twice the battle for Goretti and her family.

She had always felt that one day she would have to address this, but was nervous about committing herself to a course. And by putting it off for so long she had developed insecurities and low self esteem.

However one day she noticed an advertisement for ESOL training (English for speakers of other languages) in her company.

Goretti explains: "When I saw the advert for the training, I thought this could be what I need to help my confidence and give me the skills that feel I am missing."

Goretti signed up for the course and received special one-to-one tuition to help boost her confidence.

She said; "The lessons were fantastic. We covered a wide range of skills ranging from writing short stories to learning how to fill bank cheques. The tutor was very supportive and sympathetic to my



situation, which made me feel more positive about doing the course"

Carina Woods, her line manager at Uniq noticed the change in Goretti. She saw the improvement and positive change in her confidence, so much so that she promoted Goretti to a trainer.

Goretti continued her training and after completing Entry 2 ESOL she went on to study the Entry 3 ESOL. Her family have expressed how proud they are of their mother.

Goretti adds; "I now write to my son Matthew who is studying at university and he comments on how my writing has improved."

The Train to Gain project provides free and subsidised training to employers and volunteers working in Northamptonshire. The aim is to improve competitiveness, efficiency and employability of the workforce through improving skills.

Tresham Institute Business Solutions contact:

Libby Langley

Tel: 01536 419577

llangley@tresham.ac.uk

LSC contact:

Diana Patel

Tel: 01604 533039

Diana.patel@lsc.gov.uk

We want your news!

If your projects would like to make the most of the ESF campaign throughout July and feature in the local media please contact **Jo Sheppard at COI News and PR** on 0115 971 2781 with your good news. The deadline for copy for August's edition is Friday 24 July 2009. Don't forget we also want to hear about any project milestone or interesting visits you would like to promote.

Many of the good news stories in this edition feature only the first names of individuals as they would prefer to be kept anonymous, which is fine for the purpose of this newsletter. However, if the stories were to be used in wider publicity work, please note we would need consent to use full name and include ages.

