



NEWS RELEASE SLB – PR0511 – 20th October 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South London Skills Alliance helps local businesses benefit from staff training.

As part of its drive to develop a greater understanding of the needs of businesses in south London, the London South LSC announced today the launch of a series of borough-based employer panels supported by research work and events in Bromley, Croydon, Merton, Sutton, Kingston and Richmond. The activity will be carried out by local business support agencies in partnership with local authorities and co-ordinated by the South London Skills Alliance, which itself is funded by the London South LSC and managed by South London Business – the voice of business in south London. The LSC intends to use this activity to communicate with businesses more effectively, to better understand their recruitment and training issues. Cindy Bartello, Skills Alliance Manager said “these local panels have been designed to make local, publicly funded training as accessible and relevant to local employers as possible”.

The employer panels have been formed in response to the LSC’s recently published ‘Agenda for Change’ which outlines a number of proposed changes to how public training is funded and administered, including a range of reforms to ensure that vocational training is relevant and accessible to industry and learners needs.

The LSC and South London Business are keen to engage with employers of all sizes and are organising a series of events and activities over the next year to listen to employers’ views about training issues. If your organisation has a training issue or you would like to get involved in the work of the Skills Alliance, please contact Cindy Bartello, Skills Alliance Manager on 020 8929 4714 or via cindy.bartello@lsc.gov.uk

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Notes to Editors:

For further information, please contact: Ross Feeney, Policy & Communications Manager - 020 8256 1281

South London Business is the voice of business in South London – operating as both a strategic and operational body which:

- Lobbies pan-London bodies to represent and promote South London’s business interests.
- Acts as the official ‘landing net’ for new investment in South London
- Works with key South London businesses to ensure they remain here and prosper.
- Seeks to create a greater sense of cohesion, unity and identity in South London.

South London Skills Alliance and its partners, which include Jobcentre Plus, the London Development Agency and Government Office for London, are working closely with colleges and the LSC’s own Sector Skills Action Teams to improve communication and idea generation between the partner agencies to drive forward the sub regional skills agenda.

London South LSC - The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive