

Firms sign up apprentices

A campaign spearheaded by Surrey county council to fill 200 apprentice places in 100 days has got off to a flying start.

Businesses at the launch event promised to create 24 apprenticeships on the very first day of the drive to boost the job prospects of young people in Surrey.

Nine businesses stepped forward, ranging from Virgin Media signing up to hire ten apprentices, the Sun Inn, Dunsfold, agreeing to take on another two and Hersham based Risk and Safety Plus employing one more. Among the other businesses pledging were Camberley's Project Five and London based Aygeas.

In addition, the county council will create ten places as part of its apprenticeship scheme, which has seen nearly 60 young people hired in the past two years.

The campaign to encourage businesses and other organisations to create a range of work opportunities is part of the county council's goal to ensure all 16 to 19 year olds in Surrey are in education, employment or training by 2015.

Peter Martin, Surrey county council's cabinet member for children and learning, said: "The number of young people in Surrey not in education, employment or training (NEET) is very low compared to the national average and we're committed to driving it down even further. The council's goal is to make sure all young people are in education, employment and training by 2015."

Surrey has the second lowest number of young people considered NEET in the country with less than four in a hundred being classed as such. The national average is more than six in a hundred.

Apprenticeships help young people get on the first rung of the career ladder by giving them valuable skills, work experience and qualifications.

Skills for the top

About 30 hoteliers from across the Gatwick Diamond attended a celebration at Central Sussex College to mark the successful completion of a new diploma for aspiring hotel managers.

Hotel chain founder Surinder Arora and chief executive of the Institute of Hospitality (IoH) Philippe Rossiter spoke at the event to highlight the importance of this new qualification in helping to meet the shortage of leadership and management skills within the sector.

The level three and diploma in hospitality and tourism management and the new level four advanced diploma in hospitality and tourism management have been designed by the IoH to provide a flexible framework of relevant units which can be

Accurate profiling tool

Like many universities, Canterbury Christ Church University is facing lots of changes and challenges.

To support middle and senior managers, Vue Training and Consultancy has been working in partnership with the university to develop a practical programme that encompasses the university's own leadership model.

The aspire leadership and management programme was piloted over a three month period in early 2011, encompassing six workshops and individual coaching sessions. These aimed to stimulate and challenge discussions; create a common work based language; encourage reflection and self analysis; examine diverse approaches; and set free personality strengths.

Managers completed their team management profile before the programme began and it was linked to the workshop and session content.

Feedback has been positive with delegates finding the profile invaluable and claiming it to be the most accurate profiling tool they have used.

studied individually or as a whole qualification.

Speaking at the graduation evening for the first group of level three candidates, who are employed in four of the region's top hotels, Mr Rossiter said: "With the projected growth of the industry, it has never been



Canterbury College at Sheppey hosted a meeting between Sheppey and Swale business communities and Vestas Wind Systems about plans to build a wind turbine factory on the island.

The Danish firm is bidding to build a facility at the Port of Sheerness which could mean jobs and training opportunities for young people. Philip Wicker, head of Canterbury College at Sheppey, introduced the session in which Vesta's chief project manager, Lars Gjedsoe Eriksen, and Peel Port's managing director, Paul Kavanagh, described the plans to more than 50

business, education and council representatives.

They explained that the proposed turbine blade factory could create 2,000 jobs and regenerate up to two thirds of the port. Vestas were also excited at the opportunity of working with apprenticeship students as part of their workforce strategy.

Vestas and Peel Ports are in the process of applying for planning permission. They are aiming to submit an application by Christmas 2011. If successful, they hope to open the factory in 2015.

In the picture, left to right, are head of Canterbury College at Sheppey Philip Wicker; Vestas Wind Systems chief project manager Lars Gjedsoe Eriksen holding a Lego wind turbine; and Peel Ports managing director Paul Kavanagh

Training apprentices

Secure Engineering has taken a step to be the first company in Kent to train apprentices to level two city and guilds certificate in knowledge of electronic security and emergency systems.

In partnership with North West Kent College at the ProLogis Academy in Dartford, Secure Engineering are providing the candidates and industry knowledge to the college who are in turn providing student counselling / mentoring and grading.

The closest college offering a course that is remotely similar to the course described here, is based in Waltham Forest. It was not a sensible option for students to travel from the heart of Kent to Waltham Forest. North West Kent College were the only college ready to trial the course with support

from Secure Engineering.

The apprentices will learn first hand how to design, install and service complex electronic security systems. Such systems can synchronise with multiple systems operated via registered users, all connected to the same network at any time.

more important to provide employees with specific skills to enable them to make it to the top."

To find out more about the IoH diplomas at Central Sussex College, call Clare Skinner on 0845 155 0043 (press 4) or email cskinner@centralsussex.ac.uk