

Welcome to this edition of the national European Social Fund Newsletter.



## The Skills Show 2014 launched in London

The official launch of The Skills Show 2014 took place on 8 October 2014 at Millbank, London. The Skills Show, part of Find a Future and part funded by the European Social Fund,

is the nation's largest annual skills and careers event and will again be held at the NEC Birmingham, running from 13 to 15 November 2014. New and exciting content for this year's show was announced, including details of the WorldSkills UK Skills Competition finals and a preview of some of the activities and features that will be inspiring over 75,000 young people once more.

The new Skills Show Roadshow coach was at the launch event. The bus will travel across the country during the two weeks of autumn half term (21-31 October), engaging young people with activities to inspire them to unlock their potential and get excited about the world of work.

Registration is now open to all, via the Skills Show website, for free entry to The Skills Show at NEC Birmingham.

[>> Book The Skills Show](#)

## Supervised Jobsearch Pilots

Supervised Jobsearch Pilots, announced by the Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in October 2013 will test the impact of supervised jobsearch support to certain claimants. Participants will spend *13 weeks* on the pilot, once referred by Jobcentre Plus.

The pilots will be funded by ESF under DWP's co-financing agreements and the Invitation to Tender was made available to providers on the DWP Employer Related Support Services framework.

The successful bidders and the area they will be delivering in are:

- Skills Training Ltd – Surrey and Sussex
- G4S – West Yorkshire
- Learn Direct – Black Country and Mercia

The pilots commenced on Monday 6 October 2014.



## ESF skills support boosts sales for business in Chester

Chester based dog boutique, Oh My Dog, has seen improved sales after taking advantage of free staff training provided by West Cheshire College's retail skills course, funded by the ESF/Skills Funding Agency Skills Support for the Workforce Programme (SSW). The training, available to retail outlets with limited resources, led to changes in their product display and shop

floor design, which helped stimulate an increase in sales.

[>>Employer spotlight: Oh My Dog](#)

## Realise Futures to help Work Programme participants stay in work

Social enterprise Realise Futures has been awarded a contract to provide training for newly-employed adults in the East of England who are registered on the government's Work Programme. It expects to help 900 people and their employers. The company will ensure Work Programme participants are given the right level of personal skills training they need to improve their chances of staying in their current job, including starting an apprenticeship.

[>>Realise Futures secures £2m contract](#)



## Mulberry and military veterans in partnership

Military veterans training organisation Active Plus has formed a partnership with international fashion brand Mulberry to offer personal development courses to selected Mulberry employees. The ESF Convergence funded project recently delivered a two-day personal development programme for 10 Mulberry first level supervisors focused on six key areas - communication, planning, problem solving, attitude, self-awareness and interpersonal skills.

[>>Mulberry and military veterans in partnership](#)

## Adult Learners' Week (13-19 June 2015)

Nominations for the Adult Learners' Week Awards 2015, including the ESF awards, will be open from the week commencing 13 October 2014 until 17 December 2014.

[>>Adult Learners' Week 2015](#)

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## Helpful links

[England ESF programme national website](#)

[@DWPESFEngland on Twitter](#)

[@esif1420england on Twitter](#)

[Skills Funding Agency Co-financing Organisation \(CFO\)](#)

[Ministry of Justice \(National Offender Management Service CFO\)](#)

[Department for Work and Pensions CFO](#)

[Big Lottery Fund](#)

[Greater London Authority - European Programmes Management Unit - ESF pages](#)

[Inspiring Work: Cornwall and the South West](#)

[TAEN \(The Age and Employment Network\)](#)

[Europa \(European Commission website\) ESF pages](#)

[The National Council for Voluntary Organisations - NCVO](#)

[Gibraltar ESF secretariat website pages](#)

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## Get in touch

We want to hear about your ESF news and success stories, and welcome your ideas for features on our website – [just contact us](#)