

Real help

for business & people

now

Supported by:



Getting support

Helping people and businesses to access the range of support that's now available to them in the region is vital during this difficult economic climate.

That's why One North East, Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and Business Link are working together to ensure that firms and individuals understand who to talk to about getting support and advice.

These key agencies have joined forces to get a clear message of support out across the region.

There are three key contact numbers for anyone wanting information, advice or assistance. These are:

- For businesses wanting advice and to understand what help and support is available including free business health checks, online business support and access to appropriate finance, call **Business Link** on **0845 600 9 006** or visit **www.businesslink.gov.uk/northeast**
- For people who are in work, but may be at risk of, or worried about possible redundancy, for free confidential face to face advice on changing jobs and updating skills, call **nextstep** on **0800 027 7944** or visit **www.nextstepnortheast.org.uk**
- For those who have been made redundant or who are out of work, for free confidential support to get back to work quickly, help with job search and information about claiming benefits, call **Jobcentre Plus** on **0845 606 0234**, visit **www.direct.gov.uk** or textphone **0845 6055 255**

Help for individuals who are facing redundancy

nextstep advisers offer information, advice and support to help you find work or move on in your career. Their experienced advisers can also help you find the right training, learn new skills and the most suitable jobs.

They can offer individual and confidential advice and support to help you make the right decision on your future career choices. This includes how to look for jobs, the best websites, and interview tips and techniques.

If you want to learn new skills, or develop your existing ones to improve career prospects with your existing employer, nextstep advisers will use their extensive local knowledge and online databases to find the right course or training for you.

They can provide sessions on:

- Introduction to job searching
- Interview preparation
- The perfect CV
- Applying for jobs
- Redundancy counselling
- Career progression, and many others

You can book an appointment with their team of advisers by calling the **nextstep Regional Access Point on 0800 027 7944**.

Help for individuals who have been made redundant

Jobcentre Plus can help you find the right kind of job, whether it is full time or part time, temporary or permanent.

Their advisers can help anyone of working age to get the help and support they are entitled to if they cannot work, and can provide information about claiming benefits.

They also work with employers across the region to help fill their vacancies.

To get in touch call **Jobcentre Plus** on **0845 606 0234**, visit **www.direct.gov.uk** or textphone **0845 6055 255**

Help for businesses

Business Link will, regardless of the size or stage of development of your company, provide you with the right assistance to strengthen your business where it needs it most.

With a team of expert advisers working across the North East, Business Link can provide a free business health check to help you identify issues and opportunities that will see your business through the current downturn. To receive a business health check or request a credit crunch information pack, call **0845 600 9 006** or email **enquiries@businesslinknortheast.co.uk**

Business Link will also be running a series of workshops from January 2009 aimed at businesses looking to take practical steps to address the challenges presented by the changing economy.

In addition, Business Link also administers the Transition Loan Fund which was announced by the Chancellor on 24 November 2008 in his Pre-Budget Report. It is a flexible loan, designed primarily to assist small and medium businesses which are suffering from short term liquidity problems caused by the current economic climate. The loan fund is a lender of last resort and loans will only be available to businesses that have no alternative sources of finance. For more information about making an application for this fund, contact

Business Link on **0845 600 9 006**

Getting in touch



For Business Advice and Support.

0845 600 9 006

www.businesslink.gov.uk/northeast



For Getting back to work.

0845 606 0234

www.direct.gov.uk or **textphone 0845 6044 022**



Leading learning and skills

For Changing Jobs. Updating Skills.

0800 027 7944

www.nextstepnortheast.org.uk

www.realhelpnortheast.co.uk