

## Supply chain

Date: 21 May 2021

Dear Supplier

### re: employment-related opportunities

We are writing to make you aware of eight employment-related opportunities available this summer to help you fill vacancies, address skills gaps, and help Essex communities. Factsheets about these schemes are attached and links to further information and contacts are provided below.

1. **Free level 3 qualifications available:** The Government has recently updated their list of level 3 qualifications that are free for those aged 19 or over who do not already have a level 3 qualification. A full [level 3 qualification](#) is equivalent to an advanced technical certificate or diploma, or 2 A levels. This list will be updated as more qualifications are added. [The list of available qualifications can be viewed by clicking here.](#)
2. **ECC's care recruitment campaign: please continue to advertise your vacancies** - our digital and social media recruitment campaign is continuing to direct thousands of people towards the [national recruitment campaign site](#). These individuals have been specifically targeted based on their interests and many will be looking at the vacancies being advertised. If you are recruiting, or looking to recruit soon, please do the following:
  - o [Advertise your vacancies using these instructions](#)
  - o [Register here](#) to find applicants for your vacancies. Keep checking this site for new applicants.
3. **Opportunities to upskill your teams** with the Provider Quality Innovation Team's programme of work, including Leadership, Improvement projects, Dementia, Manual Handling and more. Read [full details of what's on offer](#) and find [upcoming events and training](#).
4. **Apprenticeships funding available:** The government has introduced a new incentive: £3000 is available to employers when recruiting a new apprentice between 1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021.
  - o Taking on an apprentice is a good way of investing in the future of your business by recruiting and training fresh talent. Apprenticeships can be used to upskill and retrain existing staff.
  - o Find out more about how to access apprenticeship funding and support by looking visiting our website: [Employers - ACL Essex](#) or emailing the team at [acl.businessdevelopment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:acl.businessdevelopment@essex.gov.uk)
5. **Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Service:** Are you an SME looking for funding to pay for apprenticeship training costs? Or does your business have unspent apprenticeship levy funds that you could donate to others? In both cases, we can help. We provide a matching service, linking organisations with unspent funds to those who need funding.

- Access this free service at [the Essex Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Service website](#) or contact the team at [info@essexalts.co.uk](mailto:info@essexalts.co.uk)
6. **Kickstart Scheme:** Did you know that under the Government's Kickstart scheme, they will pay the National Minimum Wage for six months for new, eligible job opportunities (conditions apply such as a minimum 25 hours per week).
- Find about the eligibility criteria and how to access funding and support to employ fully funded Kickstart candidates looking at [the Essex Kickstart scheme webpage](#)
7. **Apprenticeships and Jobs Fairs:** Do you have vacancies? We can help you find the right candidates at one of our Apprenticeships & Jobs fairs!
- Essex County Council, in partnership with Jobs Live UK, are offering a series of Apprenticeships and Jobs Fairs in 2021. Come and join Galliford Try, Essex Police, Investment 2020, Essex County Council, Princess Alexandra Hospital, and others to showcase your employment opportunities to young people and adults by setting up a 'virtual stand'.
  - To register your interest for these events, please contact [Fiona.marriage@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.marriage@essex.gov.uk) Our July event is full, but if a space becomes free, we can alert you.
8. **Essex Opportunities Portal:** Do you want to help generate jobs and upskill the workforce in Essex and Southend? The Essex Opportunities Portal is a virtual One Stop Shop to provide the local community and businesses with information and advice around skills, careers, training, and employment opportunities. The portal showcases employers and training providers and a variety of Essex and Southend businesses, including, career paths, employee benefits and workplace culture, it can also provide links to current vacancies.
- Please visit the [Essex Opportunities Portal](#)
  - If you are interested in featuring on the Portal, or more information, please contact the team on [essex.opportunities@essex.gov.uk](mailto:essex.opportunities@essex.gov.uk)

Employing new starters and apprentices is a way of adding 'social value' back to our communities. You'll be hearing more from us about social value in the future and there will be opportunities to find out more this exciting topic in webinars

Meanwhile, we look forward to hearing from you about your job and training opportunities.

Yours sincerely



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Director of Procurement