



North East
Employer Training Pilot

the easy way to sharpen your business



Do you want to develop your staff?

Do you want to invest in their training?

Do you want to build your business and be more competitive?

If you answered yes to any of these, and are based in the North East region, you may be entitled to funding through the eQ8 Employer Training Pilot to train your employees, which provides:

- Wage compensation for releasing your employees for training
- A contribution towards funding for training

Funding is available for any of your employees who:

- Are over 19 and have less than 5 good GCSEs and want to study for a first Level 2 NVQ in a work-related subject
- Are over 19 and want to study for essential skills - literacy, numeracy or English as a second language

eQ8 offers:

- Flexible training at a time and location to suit the employer and the individual
- Funding to cover training costs
- Compensation for the wage costs of trainees for their time off for training, thus preventing any potential loss of productivity
- Free tailored Information, Advice and Guidance for both companies and individual employees

So what's the catch?

None whatsoever.

Any organisation in any industry sector with the exception of Sole Traders or Central Government departments is eligible.

But you need to act now - employees need to complete their training by 31 July 2006.

Where do I find out more?

Freephone **0800 083 3312**

or visit us on **www.eQ8.info**



This project is funded by:



Leading learning and skills



North East
Employer Training Pilot

the easy way to sharpen your business

eQ8 Training Proves to be the Right Mix for Chemical Technicians

Chemical Technicians at a Consett company are receiving the right mix of vocational training to boost their careers, thanks to subsidies provided by the North East employer training pilot, eQ8.

Derwentside Environmental Testing Services, which provides a wide range of chemical testing for contaminated land, water and wastewater, is benefiting from eQ8 funding having previously found it difficult to find subsidised training for mature employees.

The pilot is also providing wage compensation to reimburse Derwentside Environmental Testing Services, which employs 28 people, for the cost of releasing the three employees during normal working hours to study for their Level 2 in Laboratory Skills.

Julie Bennett, Director of Derwentside Environmental Testing Services, said: *"Training mature staff has been an issue for us, but eQ8 is helping overcome that barrier. We are committed to training and regularly deliver internal programmes. These qualifications, though, validate and confirm the quality of our professional team. Equally important is the fact that training is delivered in the workplace, which keeps it relevant to the technicians' duties."*

Union Society Equates to Success

Staff at The Union Society at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne are being given a helping hand in training by the eQ8 employer training pilot.

A total of 33 employees are working towards NVQ Level 2 qualifications studying Catering and Hospitality, as well as Student Services which involves customer services in the Union Society shop and bar areas.

Kaye Graham, Personnel Manager at The Union Society, said: *"By giving us the option of having our staff trained onsite, eQ8 has helped The Union Society's team train more employees than would otherwise have been possible at any one time."*

"These employees will now be able to gain NVQ qualifications which will not only hone their skills on a personal level, but also improve the overall efficiency of our Union Society's provision."

eQ8 is one of 18 nationwide training pilots designed to help businesses increase their productivity and profitability by providing training that meets their needs.

eQ8 provides organisations with the opportunity to access financial support including training subsidies and wage compensation. Subsidies are based on the size of the organisation: the smaller the company the higher the subsidy.

Teaching Assistants Head to Top of the Class with eQ8

Two Teaching Assistants at Bewley Infant School in Billingham are heading for the top of the class with the support of North East employer training pilot, eQ8.

As part of the local authority's commitment to raising children's achievement levels in schools and the Remodelling Schools agenda, they are working towards NVQ Level 2 for Teaching Assistants

The NVQ is designed to reflect the work of candidates who are experienced Teaching Assistants and is delivered in the workplace.

Teaching Assistants play an invaluable role in the classroom by working with small groups of children and focussing on specific skills such as spelling and writing to reinforce, at their level, what is being taught by the teacher.

Val Watkins, Head Teacher of Bewley Infants School, said: *"The spectrum of knowledge in a classroom is huge and Teaching Assistants help make sure that teaching reaches children of all abilities. This qualification totally validates the work they have been doing for years and provides a real confidence booster to their skills development."*

eQ8 Helps Put Training on a Roll at SCA Hygiene

Skills development is on a roll at Prudhoe based paper company SCA Hygiene Products UK Ltd with the support of North East employer training pilot, eQ8.

Prudhoe Mill, which is the home of the 'Velvet' brand of tissue paper, and manufactures its products for major retailers, is embarking on the training programme to focus on increasing technical skills and Team Based Working Systems. This process enables teams to have the right skills and support to take decisions to ensure production outputs are met.

To meet their objectives training is being delivered at NVQ Level 2 in Performing Manufacturing Operations, Performing Engineering Operations and Business Improvement Techniques.

Dee Fawcett, HR Manager at SCA Hygiene Products UK Ltd, said: *"We believe that workforce development is the key to maximising the productivity of the business."*

