

SEEDA sets up Taskforce to support redundancies in Aylesbury

23 November 2009

SEEDA has put in place a Taskforce to provide assistance and advice to individuals facing redundancy in Aylesbury following Lloyds Banking Group's announcement of 570 jobs losses. Redundancies will be made over the next 16 months at Lloyds Banking Group's operations in Aylesbury, in addition to the changes taking place as a result of the loss of the Equitable Life contract.

The SEEDA-led taskforce will be in partnership with Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire Economic and Learning Partnership, Jobcentre Plus and Business Link. SEEDA is also in close contact with Aylesbury's MP, David Lidington.

The Taskforce will bring together a wide range of support services available from these agencies and will continue to work to support those affected. Examples of support to be provided include:

- Workshops for all employees looking at CV writing and interview skills, skills checks and job search advice
- Business Link support for those interested in being self-employed
- Recruitment days with potential employers offering jobs within similar sectors
- Job matching with existing companies and by attracting new companies to the town

Pam Alexander, SEEDA Chief Executive, said: "This is clearly a serious blow. Our immediate concerns are for the individuals who may face redundancy and how we can support them in finding new employment now and as we move through the redundancy rounds. The Taskforce, bringing together national and local agencies, will now meet to put in place support for all individuals that are at risk, from immediate help with skills to secure new employment to other opportunities, such as career changes and self-employment.

"We are also actively exploring opportunities to support continued economic growth in Aylesbury, including assistance for local businesses with growth potential and securing new inward investment wins."

SEEDA has experience of establishing similar Taskforces to support individuals and companies facing redundancies. It has a rapid response team, Continuing Employment Support Service, that is already in contact with Lloyds Banking Group to make sure that employees receive as much help and support as possible during the redundancy process.

...ENDS...

Notes to Editors

Please contact Jessica Stewart on 01483 501307 to arrange interview with Warren Ralls, SEEDA Area Director for Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Continuing Employment Support Service

The Continuing Employment Support Service (CESS) is a joint initiative between SEEDA and Jobcentre Plus to meet the needs of all those affected by redundancy. It provides a rapid, coherent and effective service to those employees who have been notified that they are facing redundancy. The brokers have extensive experience of the labour market, and offer advice and guidance tailored to meet the needs of employers and employees alike.

SEEDA support available in Buckinghamshire

- Innovation and Growth Team
- Inward Investment Manager, part funded by SEEDA and part funded by IGT partners
- CESS Broker to help individuals

- **SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency**, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region.

- **SEEDA's support helped deliver the following** over the period 2005-2008:
 - 17,500 jobs created or safeguarded
 - 32,500 people helped to get work
 - 10,000 businesses created or attracted to region
 - 137,500 businesses assisted
 - £638m investment, 45% levered from private sector
 - 200ha Brownfield land remediated
 - 148,500 people assisted in skills development

- **For media enquiries**, please contact:
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