



The Black Country **Skills Factory** is an employer-led education & training collaboration being coordinated by the Black Country Consortium Ltd (the enabling arm of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with funding via UKCES.

Objectives

1. Up-skilling (through subsidised bite-size courses and master classes) to address the shortfall of skills in the High Value Manufacturing (HVM) sector in the Black Country.
2. Apprentices – penetrate into SME’s (by offering wage subsidies and trialling various rotation models).
3. School engagement – increase the pipeline of people wanted to enter into the hvm sector.
4. Establish the Skills Factory as a self financing first point of contact for skills development.

Planned Outputs from the Skills Factory

1. Creation of ‘bite-sized’ skills training courses / materials in ‘gap’ skills areas to increase the pipeline of suitably skilled staff to exploit growth in the HVM sector. Successful Pilot Courses delivered in July 2013. Further courses running from September – December 2013. (with 30% subsidy).
2. Development of employer recognised Skills Passport covering relevant disciplines.
3. Increase take up of apprenticeships and industrial placements. Skills Factory wage subsidies of up to £1,500 to support SME’s taking on new apprentices (terms and conditions apply).
4. Trial of “shared” apprenticeship schemes aimed at SME companies – production of case studies to assess the success, barriers and impact of these models.
5. Change the perception and awareness of the Manufacturing sector with schools , FE & HE through the Ambassador scheme, teacher placements, Skills challenges, Holistic career map, and events and the Skills Factory Website, etc.

For further Information please contact

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