

BUSINESS NEWS

Stratforward Newsletter

Issue 4 - 2 February 2016



Become A Dementia Friend!

Changing the way the nation thinks, talks and acts about dementia.

This year there will be 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK and over 21 million people know someone affected by the condition. All too often people with dementia experience loneliness and social exclusion. By mobilising society together we can make sure that people living with dementia are understood, included and fee part of their communities.

What is the Dementia Friends Initiative?

Dementia Friends is a social action movement run by Alzheimer's Society that aims to give people an understanding of dementia and the small things we can all do that could make a difference to people living with dementia in our communities.

Dementia Friends and your business

You are one of the many thousands of people in the UK who provide a service. Some of your customers may be people with dementia and many others may go on to develop dementia in the future and want to continue using your business. Having a basic understanding of what dementia is and some of the small things you can do to help those affected by dementia to live well can make a huge difference to their experience as your customers.

You can make a difference

Become a dementia friend. A dementia friend is someone who has attended an information session and has committed

to an action that will make the lives of people living with dementia a little better. Every action counts – from taking a bit more time when serving someone to spreading the word about dementia. Information sessions last an hour and give a general introduction to dementia and being more dementia aware.

BID and SDC would like to invite you and your staff to **a dementia friend's information session on Tuesday 15th March** from 5.30 until 6.30 at Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford. This is a free session and places are limited so please contact the BID office if you would like to attend.

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- Karen Wild BID Manager

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National Employers Skills Research



During 2015 Stratforward took part in the National Employers Skills Research, the findings have now been published and show that the modest economic growth of the past four years has been met by an unprecedented shortage of skills, leaving thousands of vacancies unfilled.

Despite a surge in job openings, the number of positions left vacant because employers cannot find people with the skills or knowledge to fill them has risen by 130% since 2011.

The figures, published today, show so-called “skills shortage vacancies” now make up nearly a quarter of all job openings, leaping from 91,000 in 2011 to 209,000 in 2015.

Although most sectors are suffering from skills shortages, the situation is particularly acute for some. Over a third of vacancies in electricity, gas and water and construction are now due to skills shortages, with transport and manufacturing not far behind. Only in public administration are skills shortages below 10%.

Researchers interviewed over 90,000 establishments across the UK to produce the Employer Skills Survey from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. Widely regarded as being one of the largest and most comprehensive surveys of its kind in the world, the survey gathers data from employers on a wide range of issues - from skills gaps and shortages to investment in training and under-employment.

The report finds that

- the financial services sector has seen the sharpest rise in skills shortages, rising from 10% in 2013 to 21% in 2015
- time management is a significant issue, with nearly 60% of establishments who reported a skills gap saying that their staff lacked the ability to manage their own time and prioritise tasks across the UK, two million workers are under-utilised – that is, they have skills and experience which are not being used in their current job

Lesley Giles, deputy director at the UK Commission for Employment and Skills said: “With global competition intensifying, the UK urgently needs to boost its productivity. To do that, we need people with the right skills. But that’s only half the story. Creating good jobs that produce high-quality, bespoke goods and services is just as important. The Employer Skills Survey provides a wealth of data to enable businesses, training providers and policy makers to make informed decisions about what needs to be done to boost jobs, productivity and prosperity throughout the UK.”

Douglas McCormick, Chief Executive of the Sweett Group and a Commissioner at UKCES added: “The UK has witnessed exceptionally strong job creation in the past few years, creating jobs at a faster rate than any other EU country. However, this growth has been accompanied by stalling productivity levels. Evidence from the Employer Skills Survey suggests that developing the skills of the existing workforce to taking advantage of new technology and digitisation will be critical if the UK is to finally close the productivity gap.”

The full report, supporting documents, and infographics can be found on GOV.UK.

Corporate Utility Rates for BID Members

As mentioned in last week's e-news bulletin we are working with Utilitywise's Corporate Division to afford BID members the opportunity of obtaining corporate rates for gas and electricity through the group buying power of the BID. Please see below a soft letter of authorisation to enable the company to provide you with a quote and identify what level of savings would be available for your business.



Business Name: (Company Name Here)

Business Address: (Company Address Here)

Date: (Today's date)

Letter of Authorisation

Dear Sirs,

Utilitywise Plc are hereby engaged and authorised to act as a service provider to (Company Name Here) in all matters pertinent to our Gas and Electricity supplies and service.

You are authorised to release any information which Utilitywise Plc may require of you directly to them.

This authorisation remains in place until withdrawn by any person with the authority to do so at (Company Name Here)

Yours faithfully (signed by customer)

Customer Name:

Position:

Business Name: (Company Name Here)

Please return this LOA for the Attention of Andy Powell to Andrew.Powell@Utilitywise.com

Utilitywise House
3 & 4 Cobalt Park Way
Cobalt Business Park
North Tyneside
NE28 9EJ

Discount Membership of Shakespeare's England

BID members that joined us for our first networking session recently had the opportunity to be briefed upon the work of the DMO (Destinations Management Organisation) for the region, Shakespeare's England. Two businesses have since approached Shakespeare's England to join, given Stratforward's role as a funding partner and board member they will be able to take advantage of the 10% discount available to all levy payers. Shakespeare's England work tirelessly to promote the region and their members to the tourism market with particular emphasis on national and international markets. Contact the Stratforward office for more information.



BID Member Spotlight

We would like to include a short 'spotlight' piece in future editions of this newsletter featuring one BID member per week. This is your opportunity to shout about what you do to all 476 BID members and associate members. To be included please send your editorial to Karen@stratforward.co.uk together with an image either of your business, product range or a member of your team. Many thanks.

Reminders!

1. Could all BID members that are holding events during 2016 that will drive footfall into the town centre please supply details to the Stratforward office, we will then include your event within an event listing that will be going in our 2016 brochure, many thanks!
2. We would like to remind all registered DISC members to ensure they log on regularly and ensure incidents are submitted – thank you.

Welcome to the fourth edition of our regular e-news bulletin. The BID member e-newsletter is circulated every Tuesday to ensure that you are kept fully updated about the work of Stratforward, opportunities available to BID members and information about matters that affect the town centre and trading environment.

If you require any information or support please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Stratforward team.

Best wishes, Karen

All information correct at time of publication.

Stratforward improving business in Stratford-upon-Avon town centre

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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Karen Wild BID Manager