



EKC GROUP

SUPPORTING EAST KENT'S RECOVERY FROM CORONAVIRUS

ekcgroup.ac.uk



Ensuring recovery following the coronavirus crisis is critical for the continued health and wellbeing of communities across East Kent. In order to achieve this, we're setting out a package of support that aims to empower both employers and individuals to achieve their ambitions as we exit this crisis on the road to recovery. Whilst this package of support will be continually updated to reflect the changing environment, it will broadly cover three key areas:

1. Employer recovery support (items such as incentives and opportunities for employers to upskill existing staff);
2. General support for individuals (redundancy support packages, and adult short course opportunities);
3. Key curriculum opportunities (priority sector based provision).



BUSINESS RECOVERY SUPPORT

Businesses large and small have been hit hard by coronavirus despite the raft of Government available. As a large employer across East Kent, and an organisation which is committed to developing the social and economic prosperity for the communities we serve, EKC Group wants to help support the many businesses across the area. In order to do this, we have developed a range of items to help do that, which you'll find below.

Apprenticeship Incentives

Interested in enhancing your talent pipeline? Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to welcome new talent into your organisation and to help your business to flourish. When you hire new Apprentices between 1 August 2020 and 31 January 2021, we can support you in gaining access to the Government's financial incentives designed to help boost your business..

For Apprentices aged:

- 16 to 24, you'll receive £2,000;
- 25 and over, you'll receive £1,500.

The payment is in addition to the existing £1,000 you'll already get for taking on an Apprentice who is:

- Aged 16-to-18 years old;
- Under 25 and has an education, health and care plan, or has been in the care of their local authority.

Apprenticeship redundancy support

You can also help to supercharge productivity within your organisation by filling key skills gaps with an experienced Apprentice, whilst also getting an incentive payment from Government. The pandemic has forced some organisations to make redundancies, and this has led to a talent pool of experienced, work ready Apprentices who could help boost your business's productivity. As an added bonus, you will be able to access an incentive payment when you hire an [Apprentice who's been made redundant](#), as long as they're new to your organisation.

Many East Kent employers have benefitted from working closely with our experienced team to help fill their Apprenticeship vacancies. For more information and to discuss how EKC Group can support you, call us on **01227 811315** or email us at apprenticeships@eastkent.ac.uk.

Support for businesses undergoing restructure

We know how difficult it can be when your business is undergoing a restructure. That's why we are offering a range of support that can help you ensure staff who may lose their jobs are well prepared to move back into the employment market. From the earliest point in the process, through to providing aftercare for staff who have lost their job, we are committed to supporting your business and staff during this difficult time. Through our Group, employers are able to access:

- Communications and employee liaison at preliminary 'at risk' meetings;
- Provision of careers guidance workshops for staff;
- Support in writing a CV and application, and interview techniques;
- Advice and guidance sessions relating to continuing professional development and training opportunities.

To find out more about the support we can make available to you if your business is undergoing a restructure, call us on **01843 230876** or email us at employability@eastkent.ac.uk

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS THROUGH REDUNDANCY

The current pandemic has left many people either out of work following redundancy, or under-employed. If that's the case for you, we can help to support your search for your next career through a range of opportunities. Through our Group we offer support in the following ways:

- Bespoke careers guidance sessions which can also include CV writing support, and application and interview techniques;
- Health and wellbeing guidance;
- Training needs analysis and skills and interests' assessments;
- Employment profiling and candidate matching with ongoing Job Brokering support;
- Referral to alternative provision if you need to develop your skills in any area, including English, maths and digital skills;
- Advocacy support and welfare support.

If you have already lost your job and would like to unlock your potential, we also offer specialist training packages in a range of areas. These will help you develop the skills you need to get back into work, and can be delivered remotely through a blend of online and phone-based learning. These include:

- English, maths, digital skills and ESOL support, including help for parents and caregivers providing home-schooling;
- Nationally recognised, accredited 'Award' qualification in Employability Skills.

A large number of young people have been affected by this crisis, with many struggling to either find work, or losing jobs that they'd secured prior to the pandemic. That's why we've developed our Apprenticeship Academy, to help young people adapt to the current environment and boost their long-term employment prospects. This offer includes:

- Preparation for succeeding at digital job fairs and virtual employment hubs;
- Holistic and pastoral advocacy support, and help with all aspects of welfare and wellbeing including mental health;
- Information, advice and guidance on Traineeships, Apprenticeships and employment opportunities;
- Opportunities to speak with local and national Apprenticeship providers;
- Bespoke career and progression guidance;
- Knowledge of employers' common expectations and how to succeed in your first job;
- Up-to-date, relevant local industry and labour market data;
- Support to develop your CV (whether it's your first CV or an update), advice and guidance on completing job applications (including covering letter writing) and interview skills;
- A nationally recognised, accredited 'Award' qualification in Employability Skills;
- Ongoing Job Brokering support with matching to local employers and vacancies.

To find out more about these opportunities, call our team on **01843 230876** or email us at employability@eastkent.ac.uk

Ongoing support for those who want to upskill

We also offer a wide range of nationally recognised and accredited courses, designed with flexibility in mind to fit around your other commitments. Whether you are looking to upskill and take the next step, or to retrain and pursue a new career, we have more than 35 distance learning opportunities to choose from. For more information and to find the right online learning opportunity for you, visit ekcgroup.ac.uk/group/areas/professional-learning/distance-learning

Welcome to Kent and Canterbury Hospital



PRIORITY SECTOR SUPPORT

If you're looking to develop the skills to work in key areas of the local economy which have significant employment opportunities, we offer a range of provision to suit your requirements. From short courses that can be delivered at no cost to you – or your company if you're upskilling staff – to our Sector Based Work Academies which are delivered in partnership with local employers.

Flexible Learning for the Care Sector

The care sector has consistently done an incredible job of supporting those in need, and through this pandemic we've witnessed the sector deliver even more! To support the sector and develop staff within it, we're offering fully funded flexible learning qualifications in a range of care related subjects including:

- Common Health Conditions;
- End of Life Care;
- Safe Handling of Medication;
- Infection Control.

With funding available, these can be delivered at no cost to your company. See our complete range of courses here ekcgroup.ac.uk/group/areas/professional-learning/distance-learning

Flexible Learning – Mental Health Focus

Mental health and wellbeing has never been more important than it is right now, and that's particularly true for all of our young people. That's why we are offering the new NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences.

As children and young people are amongst the most vulnerable in our society when it comes to the impact of adverse circumstances on their lives, this brand new course has been designed to help professionals in the education sector expand their knowledge and offer well rounded support. For more information, visit ekcgroup.ac.uk/group/areas/professional-learning/distance-learning

Care Sector Based Work Academy

Interested in building a career in the care sector? Our specialist short course, delivered in partnership with local employers, will equip you with the skills you need to take the first step in your care career. The course includes:

- A nationally recognised, accredited 'Award' qualification in Employability Skills;
- Awareness of person-centered empathetic care approaches;
- Alzheimer's and Dementia awareness;
- The Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberties Safeguarding;
- Effective communication in catering for individual needs;
- Support to develop your CV, advice on completing job applications, and interview skills (all bespoke and tailored for the care sector);
- Preparation of digital job fairs and virtual employment hubs;
- Ongoing Job Brokering support with matching to local care employers and vacancies;
- Holistic and pastoral advocacy support, and help with all aspects of welfare and wellbeing.

All of our support services, including our qualifications, can be delivered to you in the comfort of your own home by internet and telephone.

To find out more about this course call us on **01843 230876** or email us at employability@eastkent.ac.uk

