

Harnessing West Lothian's Talent - Creating Real Employment Opportunities

West Lothian Economic Conference

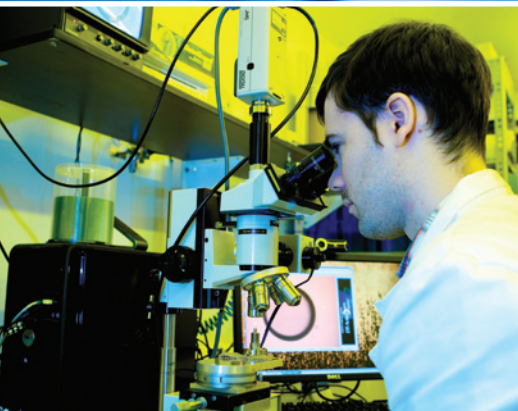
Keynote speakers:

Jean MacMillan, Senior Adviser, Enterprise and Employability for Young People, Scottish Government

Lawrie Hayworth, Chairman & co-founder of social enterprise company Bookdonors

David Brown, Chairman of Ethicon in the Community, Johnson & Johnson Medical Ltd

Rachel Thompson, Personnel Manager, Tesco



Tuesday 14 September 2010

Howden Park Centre, Livingston

You are invited to attend the

WEST Lothian ECONOMIC CONFERENCE 2010

Harnessing West Lothian's Talent - Creating Real Employment Opportunities

Tuesday 14 September 2010, 17.00 for 17.30 at Howden Park Centre, Livingston EH54 6AE

One of West Lothian's biggest assets is its young and growing population. However the increase in unemployment caused by the recession affects young people more than others, and is a growing problem in West Lothian.

Youth unemployment is a major waste of the talent and enthusiasm that young people can bring to our economy. The challenge is to ensure that we are encouraging them to contribute by providing links to opportunities in the job market.

Keith Brown MSP, Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning, has called for the public, private and voluntary sectors to step forward and help young people become the future workforce and economic success we know they can be.

This year's economic conference aims to inspire local organisations to get involved in national and local employment initiatives to support our future workforce by highlighting a range of best practice initiatives.

Drawing on their own experiences, our line-up of speakers will show how public and private sector collaboration can achieve real results. The West Lothian Economic Partnership has recently launched its Economic Strategy for 2010-2020. Realising the potential of young people is a key strategic driver, with investment in people and skills vital for the area's future success. Speaking on behalf of the Partnership, West Lothian Council's Chief Executive Alex Linkston will outline the priorities over the next ten years.

To conclude the conference, the new *West Lothian Working Together* employer engagement service will be launched, the result of a joint initiative in which local employment services have come together to co-ordinate a single, simple source of support to help West Lothian employers make the most of the employment support initiatives that are available.

"We need the public, private and voluntary sectors to step forward and help us to help young people become the future workforce and economic success we know they can be."

PROGRAMME

17.00 Registration

17.30 Welcome

Dave McDougall, Chief Executive, West Lothian Chamber of Commerce.

17.35 West Lothian's strategic priorities

Alex Linkston, Chief Executive, West Lothian Council.

West Lothian's recently launched economic strategy for 2010-2020 provides an overview of the area's strategic priorities for the next ten years. Realising the potential of young people is a key strategic driver, with investment in people and skills vital for the area's future success.

17.50 Realising the potential of young people – the policy framework

Jean MacMillan, Senior Adviser, Determined to Succeed, Enterprise and Employability for Young People Division, Lifelong Learning Directorate, Scottish Government.

Youth unemployment is a major waste of the talent and enthusiasm that young people can bring to our economy. Jean MacMillan will provide the national policy context for tackling youth unemployment.

18.05 Anyone's Employable

Lawrie Hayworth, Chairman & co-founder of social enterprise company Bookdonors.

One organisation's experience of inclusive employment.

18.20 Earn to Learn

Rachel Thompson, Personnel Manager, Tesco.

Tesco's Earn to Learn scheme is proving to be an effective route into management for school leavers.

18.35 Bridge to Employment

David Brown, Environment, Health & Safety Officer and Chairman of Ethicon in the Community, Johnson & Johnson Medical Limited.

Providing work experience is an excellent way to help young people to become job ready while testing the water to find someone to meet your business needs. Johnson & Johnson's new programme provides an alternative to the traditional one-week work experience placement.

18.50 Sharing Experience

Discussion facilitated by Eric Burton, More Choices More Chances Transition to Work Co-ordinator, West Lothian Council.

Local companies will have many experiences of involvement in employment initiatives. Best practice exists in a variety of different local employers who will have the opportunity to share their experiences with the audience.

19.15 Launch of West Lothian Working Together

Jim McGonigle, District Manager, Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders, JobCentre Plus.

Local employment services have been working together to co-ordinate a single, simple source of support to help local employers through the maze of employment support initiatives. The new *West Lothian Working Together* employer engagement service will be launched at this point.

19.25 Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks

Martyn Day, Executive Councillor Development & Transport, West Lothian Council

19.30 Buffet and Networking

West Lothian's annual economic conference is organised by the West Lothian Economic Partnership which brings together West Lothian Council, Scottish Enterprise, West Lothian Chamber of Commerce, West Lothian College, Oatridge College, Jobcentre Plus, Skills Development Scotland, the Federation of Small Businesses and VisitScotland.

Event Administration

To book your place at the conference please call or email:

Brenda Cumming
West Lothian Economic Partnership
The Enterprise Centre
Almondvale Boulevard
Livingston
West Lothian
EH54 6QP

Tel: **01506 777937**

Fax: 01506 777939

Email: **brenda.cumming@wlchamber.com**

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Economic Partnership

Skills
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