

PRESS RELEASE

8th April 2008

Build your future in the construction industry

Local people are being offered short term work placements at Bath's SouthGate development in a bid to help workers get into the construction industry.

A dedicated training programme is in place giving candidates the opportunity to gain a CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) card in just a few days. This type of experience is invaluable for those starting a career in construction as the CSCS card will become an industry standard requirement by 2010.

The redevelopment of the SouthGate site covers nine acres in the centre of the city. Eight new buildings will be at the heart of the scheme and will provide retail, leisure and restaurant space. There will be more than 90 new homes, 860 basement car parking spaces, landscaping and open spaces. In addition a modern integrated transport hub, linking rail and bus services and providing new bus station facilities will be created.

The work placements at the development site are ideal for candidates who are:

- Over 18 years old
- CSCS health and safety theory test certificate holders (or are willing to sit the test)
- Genuinely interested in gaining a job in the construction sector and are motivated to succeed
- Available during working hours to complete a work placement.

Placements are arranged through one of the two main contractors - Sir Robert McAlpine or HBG Construction who source suitable positions through the numerous sub contractors working at the site.

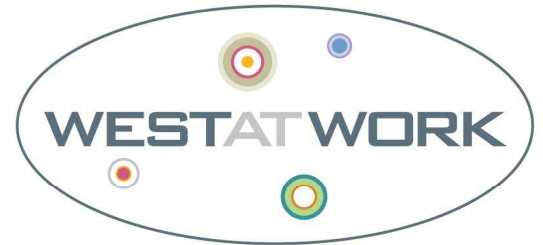
The duration of each placement will vary depending on the individual candidate and can last from a few days to two weeks.

During the placement successful candidates will:

- Receive key on-site experience
- Learn how to use personal protective equipment and relevant tools
- Gain a full CSCS card
- Receive a reference from an employer
- Network to identify and access job opportunities.

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PRESS RELEASE

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The work placements are being funded through the West at Work partnership which is aimed at developing and supporting the economy by making sure that local people have the appropriate skills and opportunities to meet employers' needs and secure jobs.

Ensuring that workers hold Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards is one way that local firms and construction workers can boost their chances of gaining work at some of the major development sites. CSCS is already an industry requirement at large developments, so having a 'carded' workforce can be central to securing contracts.

West at Work Director, David Draycott said: "It is important that local people are able to access training and employment opportunities and take advantage of the benefits that that new developments bring. Doing a short term work placement is a great way to kick start a career in construction as gaining a CSCS card is vital for anyone who wants a future in the industry. These placements offer a great opportunity because essential skills and experience can be gained in a very short space of time."

Anyone wanting information about the SouthGate work placements should contact Karl Marsh on 0117 945 6793 or email karl.marsh@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

A new West at Work leaflet '*Getting into Construction*' is also available for anyone interested in the industry and related trades. Copies are available from Connexions and IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) outlets.

SouthGate is a phased development with the new bus station and the first phase of retail due for completion in 2009 and full completion in 2010 - visit www.southgatebath.com for full details.

West at Work is a partnership between the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the South West of England Regional Development Agency (South West RDA), Jobcentre Plus, Business West, Connexions, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council.

For more information about West at Work visit www.westatwork.co.uk

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Journalists should contact Jane Samuel on 07789 705867 or at jane.samuel@lsc.gov.uk for more information. Alternatively contact the West at Work team on 0117 3726452 or at westatwork@lsc.gov.uk

