

PRESS RELEASE

17 Sept 2008

Thousands hop on to the Cabot Circus Jobs Bus

Latest figures show that more than 8,000 local people have received support and advice thanks to the Cabot Circus Jobs Bus that tours the city six days a week.

The bus visits neighbourhoods such as St Pauls, Filwood and Barton Hill and is often at the Podium in Broadmead. It provides free information and help about the training and job opportunities Bristol's new £500m development will bring.

West at Work and the Cabot Circus developers, Bristol Alliance, have jointly funded and staffed the bus which has been a central part of the recruitment drive to fill 4,000 new posts.

The West at Work partnership is made up of public sector agencies* who aim to make sure that local people have the skills and opportunity to get jobs at development sites – such as Cabot Circus.

There has been a particular focus on attracting disadvantaged jobseekers such as long term unemployed, single parents or those from specific communities.

Visitors to the bus have increased over the summer and the latest figures show that since February the team has given help and advice to 8,348 people. August saw the highest numbers when a total of 1,998 jobseekers visited the bus during its tour of local communities.

Some will have been referred to one of the many free training courses that have been made available through West at Work, whilst others will have had support with the application and interview process.

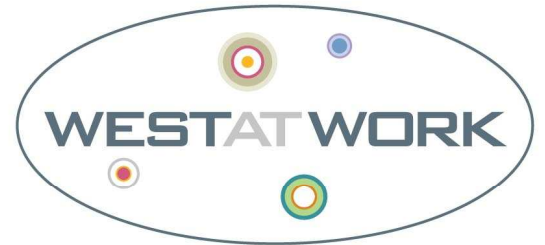
As a key West at Work partner, Jobcentre Plus has played a major role through providing the bus and jointly staffing it on a daily basis with Bristol City Council. Additional staff are also drawn from community partners and other organisations across the city.

West at Work Director David Draycott said: "The Jobs Bus has proved very popular with local communities and we are pleased that so many people have taken advantage of this facility. It is a great example of how successful partnership working can result in real benefits for residents.

"There are many opportunities available for local people including free training to help people back to work or to brush up their skills. Cabot Circus employers are still recruiting and the bus is just one way of getting information about what is on offer.

more





PRESS RELEASE

Continued

Jobseekers can also visit the website www.cabotcircusjobs.com or get further information from community information points or directly from Jobcentre Plus or Connexions.”

Cabot Circus opens on 25th September.

* 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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