

HSS HIRE COMMITS TO TRAINING THE EAST END

Submitted by: Gyro:

Tuesday, 6 January 2009

HSS Hire and City Gateway work together to provide opportunities for NEET individuals

6th January 2009. Manchester. HSS Hire (<http://www.hss.com>), the national tool and equipment hire company, has developed a new working relationship with City Gateway (<http://www.citygateway.org.uk/>), a Tower Hamlets charity that aims to encourage, engage, mentor and train members of the London borough's disadvantaged community.

City Gateway has been engaging and training NEET (not in education, employment or training) individuals in the borough for almost ten years, while HSS Training delivers thousands of industry training programmes every year across its UK-wide network.

From January 2009, the two organisations will partner to offer a new free developmental training course for young people in the borough, working to improve their customer service and professional skills, whilst also training some specifically in construction.

HSS Training will deliver key elements of a new customer service 'Export' programme at City Gateway's East End training centre. The programme will see many young people from one of the country's most deprived boroughs undertake a 4 week training course followed by a 6 week placement in one of the hire company's 43 London branches, including 11 massive supercentres with extended opening hours.

HSS will also be supporting a number of the other Export training programmes delivered by the charity.

"This is about providing real jobs for local people," said Chris Davies, CEO of HSS. "The skills they learn will help equip them for the world of work and, if they do well during the placement, they have every chance of being offered a job and a place on a modern apprenticeship scheme with us. We're hoping this will provide us with our London based branch managers, fitters, drivers, hire consultants and sales people of the future".

HSS has a long history of supporting community projects and has a well renowned training division, so the collaboration with City Gateway was simply common sense. Davies continues: "The City Gateway team does a tremendous job in engaging the community and we are very pleased indeed to be working on this project".

And to make the centre somewhere people really want to learn, the project was officially launched with Chris and a team of 'HSS Heroes' working hard to refurbish the charity's facilities at The Montefiore training Centre in Whitechapel, East London.

Davies concludes: "We are committed to contributing to the communities we operate in and the guys at HSS are extremely proud to lend their expertise, roll their sleeves up and help provide better facilities for those less fortunate than them. We hope that the much improved facilities will encourage more Tower Hamlets residents to take advantage of the courses on offer in the New Year".

Eddie Stride, CEO for City Gateway, adds: "It's great not only to see HSS supporting us but also for their suppliers to have joined in too - we've had support from Screwfix, SBS and Omega as well as a core team of HSS volunteers who have done their best to transform the training space we run.

"With the media full of bad news about large companies it's good to see some of them coming together to have a big positive impact in the community, both in terms of helping to upgrade our facilities and also offering local young people the chance to develop their skills and improve their career opportunities".

The training programme was launched officially in the New Year, although several 'taster sessions' took place in December.

-ENDS-

Media Contacts: Jessica Hope at Gyro International – jessica.hope@gyrointernational.com / 0161 876 5522

Notes to editors:

HSS Hire Service Group is a UK-based tool and equipment hire chain. Operating under the banner of HSS Hire, the group has an established nationwide network of over 250 locations including a number of supercentres with extended opening hours. Established in 1957, the company now has a 2,300 strong workforce and a fleet of over 800 vehicles.

HSS Hire runs a dedicated training company and holds a 4 star British Safety Award.
www.hss.com