

Central & East region loses out to the Capital in skills war

Submitted by: BlueSky Public Relations Ltd

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Vacancy levels in the Central & East region have risen by 27% year-on-year, according to the latest contract employment update from Venn Group, but local businesses are struggling to compete with the Capital to secure the best talent.

Continued investment from the major logistics and distributions organisations based in the region has driven the growth in the employment market, particularly for IT specialists with experience in upgrading internal systems, as businesses continue to invest in software. However, as the Venn Index highlights, the region's firms are failing to boost their remuneration levels in the face of a marked skills shortage, and as a result, the best candidates are choosing to commute to London to secure higher rates of pay.

Venn Group's director of operations in the region, Avtar Singh, commented:

"The sustained growth can be largely attributed to the ever-growing number of logistics and distribution firms in the region. However, many employers have not recruited since the onset of the recession and, despite the shift to a candidate driven market, they have yet to adjust their remuneration packages accordingly. For example, an IT project manager can typically earn £550 a day in London, compared to £340 in the Central and East region. Businesses who don't take this into account will pay the price in terms of a gap in expertise."

"Elsewhere, in the public sector, there's been a 20% boost in vacancies in the region's social housing market, with considerable demand for housing officers and support and advice workers. The NHS also fared well with many Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) turning to the contractor base to plug the gaps left by the challenges in securing permanent staff."

Venn Group – The UK's only company dedicated to the provision of professional contract staff to organisations in both the private and public sectors – compared hiring levels between quarter one 2014 and quarter two 2014 across all of its core regions:

- London
- The North West
- The North East
- The South West
- Thames Valley
- The Midlands
- Central & East

For further information, or to request a full copy of the report, please contact Vicki McDonald on vmcdonald@bluesky-pr.com or 01582 790708