
MINISTER PRAISES SSP UK RECRUITMENT SCHEME AT NEWCASTLE AIRPORT

A recruitment programme helping jobseekers into work with food travel experts, SSP UK at Newcastle International Airport has won praise from the Government's Employment Minister.

Department for Work and Pensions Minister Tony McNulty visited the airport to meet people who have been helped into work through the Local Employment Partnership (LEP) scheme.

The Minister saw how SSP UK, the company which provides the catering services in the terminal, is working with Jobcentre Plus to offer unemployed people a route back into work. He met some of the 16 people helped into jobs by the scheme and others who are currently going through the recruitment process.

SSP UK has worked with Jobcentre Plus every year to fill seasonal vacancies at the airport, and in January 2008 signed up to the LEP scheme to help support disadvantaged jobseekers into work. In return Jobcentre Plus is currently helping with recruitment for 60 posts for the summer season and with Brenikov training is providing pre-employment support for 8 jobseekers.

Further government-backed training will be provided for the people successful at the recruitment stage to give them job-specific skills whilst their airport security clearance is obtained. They will have the opportunity to work with brands such as Starbucks, Burger King, Ritazza and the Real Food Company.

Tony McNulty, Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform said:

"Everyone should have the opportunity to support themselves and their families. I am delighted to see first-hand how, despite the difficult economic circumstances, schemes like this one have helped those at a disadvantage in the jobs market to get back into work. More than 5,200 employers have signed up to work with us in the North East, and Local Employment Partnerships have helped over 8,000 people in the region into work. Many more will now be able to benefit from it as the extra money allocated in the Pre-Budget report last November means we've been able to extend it to people who have just lost their jobs too."

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Stephen Wafer, SSP UK Operations Manager at Newcastle Airport said:

“SSP UK has been working alongside Job Centre Plus for the past 12 months and their refreshing approach to recruitment continues to meet our employment needs. Thanks to their involvement in the LEP scheme, we benefit from their resources to ensure that the people we employ have a solid base knowledge in their required area and more importantly, have the motivation and drive to develop their skills, to become Food Travel Experts.

“We’re thrilled that the Minister has taken the time to visit one of our recruitment sessions and it is a testament to the importance of this great working partnership.”

Graeme Mason, head of planning and corporate affairs at Newcastle International Airport, said: “We are delighted that the Minister has visited the airport to see what is being done between our catering provider SSP and Jobcentre Plus to create employment opportunities here at Newcastle International.

“The airport supports a large number of jobs in a wide range of fields, and the work we are doing in conjunction with Newcastle College to upskill the region’s workforce is an extremely important part of our business. Newcastle International Airport is critical to the region and will be key to the economic recovery of the North East when it comes.”

Ends



L to R: Alan Henderson (Candidate), MP Tony McNulty and Sean Stevenson, SSP UK Unit Manager



L to R: MP Tony McNulty and Louise Fee who entered SSP UK via the scheme

Notes to Editors:

ABOUT SSP UK

SSP UK operates over 610 retail and catering outlets including restaurants, pubs, bars and coffee shops at 22 airports and 115 rail stations throughout UK and Ireland.

ABOUT SSP

SSP, the Food Travel Experts, is the leading dedicated operator of food and beverage brands in travel locations worldwide, with operations in more than 130 airports in 29 countries. Its unparalleled portfolio of international, national, local, speciality and new breakthrough food and beverage brands includes its own national and international brands. Among these are Caffè Ritazza, Burger King, M&S Simply Food, Bonne Journée, Caviar House & Prunier, Pizza Hut, Upper Crust and Le Train Bleu. SSP has operations in airports, train stations, retail parks and conference centres.

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