

July 25, 2008.

***Let's become the employer of choice says public sector partnership***

The public sector in Gloucestershire is joining forces in a move to attract and retain talented staff, explore training opportunities and share good practice.

Today it is launching the Gloucestershire Public Services Employment Partnership (PSEP) in a drive to make the public sector the employer of choice for people seeking rewarding employment and career development.

The initiative is being managed by Gloucestershire First, the county economic partnership, and funded by participating organisations including local councils, the health service, police and other public sector bodies.

Hugh Pollock, a former principal at Stroud College, has been appointed to develop the PSEP. He said: "As experienced staff retire, councils and other organisations are finding it difficult to fill some vacancies in key areas. A skills shortage is also causing concern due to a short fall in people with the qualifications the county needs."

A membership charter has now been agreed and an executive group formed to work with recruitment agencies serving the public sector in Gloucestershire. This will be chaired by Nuala Ring, director of human resources at Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust.

She said: "It is in everyone's interest for public services in Gloucestershire to be well staffed by skilled and properly-qualified people.

"We need to sell the benefits of working in the public sector, in particular to young people and those from under-represented groups in the county.

"We want to become employers of choice for people seeking a career with good conditions of service, development opportunities, job satisfaction and personal fulfilment."

Mr Pollock added: "Many people, especially the young, perceive that a career in the public sector holds little appeal but, through training and apprenticeships, they can reach very senior positions.

"Workforce development is a high priority in the public sector, where there is a real need for talented people to join us and develop their careers. It offers a massive range of jobs, with great opportunities for career development, good salaries and working conditions.

“Working together within the PSEP will allow for succession planning and I am hopeful that more people will come forward and take a look at its potential for training and skills development,” added Mr Pollock.

On July 18 senior executives from councils in the county and other public sector organisations attended the PSEP launch in Coleford. Pictured are (front row L to R) Jan Stubbings, chief executive Gloucestershire PCT, Peter Bungard, chief executive Gloucestershire County Council, David Hagg, chief executive Stroud District Council and Gill Bourton of Gloucester City Council.

Middle row: Tim Perrin, chief executive Forest of Dean District Council, Tim Smithson, Learning & Skills Council, Ahmed Goga, Gloucester Works, Julie McCarthy Cheltenham Borough Council and Nuala Ring, partnership chairman and human resources director, Gloucestershire PCT.

Back row: Julian Wain, chief executive Gloucester City Council, Peter Antill, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Hugh Pollock, Public Services Employment Partnership manager.

This project is managed by Gloucestershire First, the countywide economic partnership established to develop the economic wellbeing of Gloucestershire. By bringing together partners in the field of economic development, including local authorities, the South West RDA and the private sector, it provides an overall strategic plan for Gloucestershire. For further information on this project, please contact Hugh Pollock on 01452 450034 or 07967 041879 (m) or email [graham.pollock@glosfirst.co.uk](mailto:graham.pollock@glosfirst.co.uk) or Nuala Ring on 0845 6583800.

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