

January Commerce Cornwall column – Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP

HEADING: Young people

BY: Sandra Rothwell

If you are in business in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and would like to inspire the next generation, our Enterprise Adviser Programme wants to hear from you.

Enterprise Advisers are volunteers from local businesses who go into schools and colleges to share their knowledge and experience of the world of work.

They are part of a bigger project to raise aspiration among young people in Cornwall and Scilly by giving them an understanding of local job opportunities, what employers expect and the skills they will need in the future.

The Enterprise Advisers Programme is a national scheme launched last year and is jointly funded by the LEP and the Careers and Enterprise Company.

To date 22 state-funded secondary schools across Cornwall have starting to work with the 18 Enterprise Advisers recruited so far. These experienced business volunteers are from a range of sectors and we are on the lookout for more, especially from the tourism sector and in the Penzance, St Austell, Newquay and Fowey areas.

There are a number of benefits to being a volunteer, including access to your future potential workforce and opportunities to influence the educational landscape so that it meets business needs. This is a key focus for the LEP.

In addition to Enterprise Adviser volunteers, we will shortly be appealing for businesses to come forward if they can offer some ad hoc support to local schools. This might be an occasional talk or presentation, mock interviews or work experience.

In the next few weeks businesses will be able to make a 'pledge' to a new directory via the LEP website, so make sure you keep an eye on the Enterprise Adviser pages at www.cioslep.com

If you want to hear first-hand about Enterprise Advisers then please book a place at the Business Cornwall LIVE! networking event on 26 January in Pool.

A group of students from Richard Lander School will explain how important it is for young people to learn about different career paths and the skills they will need in the future, and how working with their Enterprise Adviser from Rodda's is helping to open their eyes to the world of work.

- *Sandra Rothwell is Chief Executive of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership www.cioslep.com @LEPCornwall_IoS*

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