

## **Continuing Employment Support Service**

*Providing redundancy support in the South East*

The Continuing Employment Support Service (CESS) is a joint initiative between SEEDA and Jobcentre Plus. Operating in the South East since 2003 with a team of Brokers covering the whole region, CESS aims to meet the needs of all those affected by redundancy, ensuring, wherever possible, that they are ready and able to move into new employment.

### **Who can CESS help**

CESS can help any company downsizing or unable to continue trading during the recession. It provides a free, rapid, tailored in-house package of support to businesses making redundancies and helps employees under threat of redundancy whilst they are still in work. CESS aims to provide early intervention, and where possible help people navigate their way through the jobs market hopefully avoiding the need to register as unemployed. Brokers have extensive experience of the labour market, and offer information, advice and guidance tailored for employers and affected employees.

### **How do we hear about potential redundancies**

CESS is notified, by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills when companies report their intention to make redundancies. Within hours of being notified, CESS contacts a company to offer support. The brokers operate in strictest confidence and understand the sensitivity of the situation and information they are dealing with. The service also tracks the media, for news of potential job losses, and works with partners, employers and extensive networks who alert the service to businesses making redundancies.

### **How can CESS help**

CESS is a simple, single point of contact for employers and employees to access a wide range of support, advice and guidance to help them deal with the prospect of redundancy and to return to work as quickly as possible. Brokers work with employers to establish the needs of the company and the staff at risk of redundancy and can then provide a free bespoke package of support from a range of partners including,

- Jobcentre Plus
- Nextstep
- Business Link and Train to Gain
- Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

- Colleges
- Trade Unions
- Financial Services Authority (FSA)
- HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- Advice Conciliation and Arbitration service (ACAS).

New partners are coming on board all the time who can offer support in redundancy situations such as the NHS Credit Crunch Stress Line.

### **What support is on offer**

- CV and Interview skills workshops,
- Job Search and Careers advice,
- workshops for those considering self employment,
- information sessions on entitlement to state benefits and how to claim,
- how to protect your state pension if you are not working,
- advice on tax related matters from HMRC,
- financial planning, savings and investment advice from FSA

and signposting to a wide range of other free support such as the NHS Credit Crunch Stress line.

The brokers can work alongside outplacement companies or on their own depending on the requirements of the company.

**If you have any questions or would like further details please contact the Continuing Employment Support Service at SEEDA on 01483 470138**

**[www.seeda.co.uk/helping-business/redundancy](http://www.seeda.co.uk/helping-business/redundancy)**

**KEEPING THE  
SOUTH EAST WORKING**



**CESS is fully funded by SEEDA and Jobcentre Plus and there is no charge to users for any part of this service.**