

Media Release

From the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire
www.push.gov.uk



29th September 2011

PUSH Employment and Skills Board appoint new intern

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), an organisation which promotes regeneration in the region, has recently appointed a graduate intern, Hannah Saunders, to facilitate the work of the PUSH Economic Development Panel. Hannah, a graduate of the University of Southampton, started on 19th September. Her remit will involve working collaboratively with a wide range of public and private sector organisations, and in particular with the private sector led Employment and Skills Board (ESB).

Intern Hannah Saunders, Said:

“I am really pleased to have been given this fantastic opportunity to work for a Partnership organisation like PUSH. I am looking forward to gaining crucial experience within a business environment. The aims and objectives of PUSH are of great interest to me, I therefore hope to discover the best area of work suited to my skills, to progress into.”

The University of Southampton is co-founding the intern post with PUSH. Its collaboration is a reflection of the University’s commitment to investing in internship opportunities in order to further enhance the employability of its graduates. Retaining local graduates in the community is also a priority identified within the PUSH Business Plan. It is a priority action of PUSH to enable a “route-way into employment and skills resulting in increased levels of labour market engagement and retention of local talent.”

The ESB was established to deliver sustained economic growth in south Hampshire by transforming employment services and ‘up skilling’ its workforce. Although there has been substantial progress in this area, the board aims to increase the proportion of its residents with the highest skills. Projections for the growth of the economy highlight the increasing importance of a highly skilled workforce. The ESB will work closely with employers in key sectors to ensure their needs are met.

By creating an intern post within the organisation, PUSH is helping to retain people working within our local economy, satisfying one of the suggestions at the Annual Employment and Skills Summit, in that much of the Board’s efforts going forward should include (amongst other strategies) promoting Graduate Retention from the region’s four universities “to retain our local talent in the region with a strong emphasis on growing internship programmes.”

PUSH Chairman, Councillor Seán Woodward, said:

“A highly skilled workforce will underpin higher levels of productivity, making South Hampshire an even more attractive location for business investment. This will enable us to grow in a sustainable manner, without the need for employers to constantly have to recruit from outside the region and our existing residents able to capture the employment opportunities on their doorsteps. PUSH remains committed to the creation of local jobs for local people. The Employment and Skills Board has to date done an excellent job in developing this agenda and the appointment of Hannah is certainly one of the positive steps to fulfilling the commitment of graduate retention in the Solent area.”

Together shaping the future of South Hampshire

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Professor Debra Humphris, Chair of the ESB Board, Said:

“The Employment and Skills Board continues to focus on the needs of the sub-regional economy and the skills of the resident workforce. Our aim is to achieve sustainable economic growth by anticipating and meeting the employment and skills needs of employers within the Solent Region and by developing and retaining the talents of local people to work within Solent economy.”

Ends

For further information on PUSH, please contact Gloria Ighodaro via email to gloria.ighodaro@push.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

- 1) PUSH is a partnership of eleven local authorities including unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton; Hampshire County Council and district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Test Valley and Winchester.
- 2) PUSH in collaboration with local partners and government agencies continue to work to deliver sustainable, economic-led growth and regeneration to create a more prosperous, attractive and sustainable South Hampshire, which offers a better quality of life for all who live, work and spend their leisure time in the sub-region.
- 3) **Employment and Skills Board members are as follows**

Debra Humphris – University of Southampton

Chris Allington – Oxford Innovations

Cllr Tony Briggs – Havant Borough Council

Huw Chapman – Pall Europe

Jonathan Cheshire – W heatsheaf

Ashley Curzon – Isle of Wight Council

Graham Ellis – Ellis Transport

Debby Gill – Jobcentre Plus

Eileen Gore – Jobcentre Plus

Steve Grant – De Vere Hotels

Stella Mbubaegbu – Highbury College

Anne-Marie Mountifield – PUSH

Sue Ormiston – Skills Funding Agency

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson – Portsmouth City Council

Kathy Wadsworth – Portsmouth City Council (Local Authority representative)

Fiona Willmot – Skills Funding Agency