

Apprentice subsidy available for Copeland firms

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BUSINESSES in Copeland can now take advantage of a new subsidy to encourage apprentice employment.

Small-sized employers across the borough can receive a £3,000 subsidy towards a new apprentice's salary.

Copeland Work and Skills Partnership - led by Copeland Council and funded by Copeland Community Fund and Sellafield Ltd - has launched the subsidy to encourage employers to support young people (aged 18 to 24) into employment.

Companies employing fewer than 50 staff that have been in business for at least a year can qualify for the subsidy. It will be granted only to businesses that have apprentice position to fill that is part of their ongoing business operations, and support apprentices undertaking a Level 2 or 3 qualification.

The Partnership is particularly keen to hear from employers in sectors including health and social care; accommodation and food; retail; manufacturing; construction and digital.

Mike Starkie, Mayor of Copeland, said: "This is a win-win situation. Local people get a foot on the career ladder while receiving training and support, and businesses can support a young person into employment while having their costs subsidised."

The subsidy is one of a number of workstreams being delivered by Copeland Work and Skills Partnership as part of its three-year programme. It is also offering businesses a separate subsidy of up to £2,500 to take on a new recruit.

For more information, employers are asked to contact Chris Pickles, Copeland's Work and Skills Programme Officer, on 01946 598326 or chris.pickles@copeland.gov.uk.



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