

Good Afternoon All,

This is to alert you about an incident that was brought to the attention of Carol Hailes the NTW Local Partnership Manager for South Tyneside. She was contacted by a company called GEON based in Newcastle, about an Employability Course they wished to deliver and which was to be funded by DWP.

Carol arranged to meet GEON and was told by them that they had been approached by an organisation called Education Star Solutions (ESS) who for a fee of £1600, would assist GEON to register and up load an offer on to DPS. They also indicated that once GEON were registered on DPS, that they would then have a contract with DWP.

Unfortunately GEON being unfamiliar with DWP business, fell for this and paid Education Star Solutions the £1600 to assist them with the DPS registration and so thought they then had an approved contract with DWP.

Education Star Solutions are a private limited company based in Pontefract West Yorkshire who “Offer business solutions to both employers and training providers of all sizes through a range of integrated services that meet your business needs, add value, and drive bottom line impact”

We need to be aware of this company and be aware of any direct approach from them seeking greater detail on our management of the DPS system. Such information becomes very valuable to such companies looking to offer a competitive advantage to other companies. We will also need to alert potential suppliers/providers in NEE who are thinking of registering on DPS, not to deal with this company as they are giving misleading information.

Kind regards

Danny

Daniel Haraldsson | Service Line Manager – Employer, Partner and Skills Team | Department for Work and Pensions | Operational Excellence Directorate | Service Design and Management 1: Universal Credit (SDM1 UC) | Level 3 Hartshead Square | 1 Hartshead Square | Sheffield | S1 2FD | Phone 0114 241 9777 | Internal 2777 www.gov.uk | Please consider the environment before printing