

## **Skills for Growth**

Skills for Growth is a project delivered by the National Skills Academy for Financial Services and funded by the European Social Fund, which aims to address skills gaps in the Coast to Capital LEP region by providing intermediate and higher level skills development for the employed. The project is responsive to business needs and aims to stimulate economic growth and create more and better jobs. The project runs from November 2016 to July 2018.

The project carries out training needs analyses with a wide range of SMEs (organisations with less than 250 employees) to review skills development gaps and potential solutions for the current workforce.

The project delivers non-accredited and accredited training at level 3 and above to upskill employees in order to help them achieve their goals and progress in their current area of employment. Advice and guidance, personal development planning, and mentoring are provided to employees on an individual basis. Participants are supported as appropriate to progress into further education or an apprenticeship.

The project focuses on supporting the skills needs of SMEs in eight key industry sectors in the region: advanced manufacturing and engineering; creative, digital and IT; environmental technologies; financial and business services; health and life sciences; care; construction; the visitor economy.

The project focuses on the following employee target groups: younger adults under 24; older adults over 50; part-time workers; the underemployed; those at risk of unemployment; women where they are underrepresented by a sector or returning after a career break; BAME groups where there are underrepresented by a sector; lone parents; individuals with disabilities/ health issues; individuals with no basic skills.

The Coast to Capital LEP region includes Croydon, Gatwick Airport, Brighton & Hove, Worthing and Chichester. A map outlining the area can be found here: <http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/our-area/>

For further information about the Skills for Growth project please contact Julie Harries on [julie.harries@nsafs.co.uk](mailto:julie.harries@nsafs.co.uk)