



Case Study

SkyBlue Birmingham Rail has established working links with Thorn Cross prison in Warrington, in order to get ex offenders back into work.

One such candidate was Kalyan Chusadama.

Kalyan was released on electronic tag when he had his first contact with the Rail industry. Through the support of LEP he undertook a PTS course and a NVQ Level 2, which was supported by Thorn Cross and SkyBlue. This developed into his successful placement in a full time role as a trainee technical on a Carillion project.

Charlene Kelly, Employer Support Officer from Thorn Cross, said "It is the first scheme we are running like this and it is been absolutely superb. We have found great support and awareness in Peter Thompson, Area Manager for SkyBlue Rail, and we really want to expand this initiative to the

Solutions part of SkyBlue."

First Impressions on the SkyBlue Rail Work

Stephen Timms, former Minister for State for Employment and Welfare Reform, and David Lammy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills visited the branch last September to discuss SkyBlue's effective diversity strategy within the local community and they were impressed by the work with Thorn Cross, alongside other schemes in place such as the work with Pertemps, explained in Chapter 1.

Stephen Timms said: "In Birmingham today we have seen how SkyBlue Rail is doing a great job to help people move into sustainable employment through training. We believe employment support needs to integrate with the skills system, so that when somebody goes to the Jobcentre to find a job, they are also able to get help to develop their skills."

Such is the fresh approach of the branch that one month later SkyBlue Birmingham Rail also received a visit from Jobcentre Plus Scotland District Managers, as part of JCP Integrated and Employment Skills initiative.

On their trip to the West Midlands they made sure they scheduled an afternoon visit to know more about the innovative and efficient practices of SkyBlue Rail within the LEP frame.

Dave Cowie, Jobcentre Plus District Manager for Forth Valley, Fife & Tayside Scotland stated, "We all were very impressed by the way in which unemployed people were prepared for opportunities in major infrastructure projects and by the success rates achieved by SkyBlue."

Peter Thompson, Area Manager SkyBlue Rail Midlands, explains, "Either through Pertemps or Thorn Cross, the candidates obtained for the Rail industry are probably our best candidates to be sent to our clients: trained, reliable, committed and always on point. The staff retention of workers

resourced these ways is about 90%.

"The best thing of all is that they frequently pop into a branch for a tea with the team and to keep us posted of their amazing progress. They deserve a big well done from us for getting back on track, literally and physically, and learn the discipline that the Rail industry demands."

For more details contact

T: 0845 111 4334

F: 0870 1293786

ask@skybluesolutions.com

SkyBlue Rail specialises in providing qualified and well-managed rail gangs, both directly to Network Rail for rail maintenance, and to contractors working on track renewal projects.

SkyBlue Rail also offers welding services, Thermat, Rail-Techpla, maintenance, repair of crossings and burning services for Carillion and a number of external suppliers.

Mr Timms and Mr Lammy (far left) met with temporary rail workers (far right) and SkyBlue Head of Operations for Rail Phill Murphy (centre) at SkyBlue rail offices in Birmingham.



THERE IS MORE TO SKYBLUE PEOPLE