



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**6 May 2009**

### **Pioneering work of Waterloo Job Shop recognised by Government with visit from Employment Minister**

Tony McNulty MP, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform and Minister for London, today paid a visit to the Waterloo Job Shop, to find out more about the innovative work being undertaken by South Bank Employers' Group to tackle unemployment in deprived communities. Unlike many other job services, the Waterloo Job Shop is fully employer-led which means over fifty organisations in the area have all committed to recruiting locally. They include Shell and its sub-contractors, the Shield Guarding Company, London South Bank University, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital and Lambeth PCT.

This recognition from government comes soon after the release of new figures which show the employer-led service placed a record 260 people into work in the last twelve months. To achieve these results, South Bank Employers' Group is leading a two-pronged attack: engaging with local employers to identify new vacancies and then providing customised training and work placements to ensure that residents of Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth have the right skills and experience to apply for the roles available.

Meeting local job seekers to discuss their experiences, **Tony McNulty** said: "The Waterloo Job Shop is a clear example of how local businesses can work together to make a difference to people's lives in nearby areas of high unemployment. It is thanks to their innovative approach that more than 260 local people have been helped into employment in the past year and I congratulate them on their success.

"Closer working between the Government and its partners is paramount to tackling unemployment. We are committed to making sure people receive real help from day one of being unemployed so that they can get back to work as quickly as possible."

**Anita Konczak, head of employment and skills, South Bank Employers' Group explained,** "Our service is achieving success because we equip candidates to give each job opportunity their very best shot, whilst employers benefit from a free service which fills their vacancies with reliable, local staff every single time. Even in this difficult economic climate, we are still working on a high volume of vacancies and would strongly encourage anyone looking for work to come and register with us. "

South Bank Employers' Group programmes and the close partnership with Lambeth Council have also recently received recognition from the Improvement and Development Agency which aims to help councils serve people and places better by highlighting best practice throughout the country ([www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)).

#### **Notes to the editor**

- South Bank Employers' Group is a non-profit association of the major organisations in South Bank, Waterloo and Blackfriars dedicated to promoting and improving the area. One key aim is to maximise opportunities for Lambeth and Southwark residents to access the jobs created by the South Bank's success.
- Members of South Bank Employers' Group include: British Film Institute, Coin Street Community Builders, Ernst & Young, Guy's & St Thomas' Charity, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust, IBM UK Ltd, ITV, King's College London, London Eye Company, London Development Agency, London South Bank University, National Theatre, Network Rail, Park Plaza Hotels, P&O Developments, Shell, Southbank Centre and Whitbread.
- The Waterloo Job Shop is a partnership between South Bank Employers' Group and Lambeth Council. Based on Lower Marsh it provides a local job brokerage facility which successfully places over 250 local people into jobs each year.
- The Waterloo Job Shop is based at 114-118 Lower Marsh, Waterloo, SE1 7AG. Tel: 020 7926 8760