



**Media Release**

**Monday, May 1, 2017**

**Executive Springboard gets underway with first intake**

Seventeen former oil and gas workers who lost their jobs in the downturn will start their journey back into employment this week as the Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce's Executive Springboard gets underway.

Supported by the Transition Training Fund, the initiative aims to help middle and senior managers find new pathways into employment.

A mix of candidates who have a background in various roles in the oil and gas industry including logistics, finance, account management and operations, make up the first cohort which starts tomorrow (Tuesday, May 2), with two additional groups commencing May 29 and June 2.

The comprehensive programme will include sessions on effective networking, personal branding and social media to help candidates develop their recruitment profiles.

In addition to a choice of six courses from a suite of leaning modules, candidates will have the opportunity to attend four of the Chamber's networking events, and will be supported by the organisation for nine months or until they are successful in finding employment.

Liam Smyth, deputy chief executive of Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, said: "The downturn in the oil and gas industry has affected workers at all levels and we know that displaced people at managerial and executive level can be reluctant to access support or are not aware that support is available to them.

"Executive Springboard has been created to support these individuals, and we are looking forward to welcoming the first cohort of executives and managers back to the Chamber to support them in finding new pathways to employment."

The initiative has been funded by the Transition Training Fund, which was established by the Scottish Government and managed by Skills Development Scotland – the fund is part of a wider response to the downturn through the Energy Jobs Taskforce.

Gordon McGuinness, Director of Industry and Enterprise Networks at Skills Development Scotland, said “Through the Energy Jobs Taskforce, we are committed to helping individuals affected by the downturn make the most of support available to them.

“The Executive Springboard will help all those who have signed up to get back into employment.”

Places are still available for the second and third cohorts. Further details and application forms can be found at: [www.agcc.co.uk/developing-skills/executive-springboard](http://www.agcc.co.uk/developing-skills/executive-springboard)

## **Ends**

### **Notes to editor**

- Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC) is the North-east of Scotland's leading private sector, member-focused, business organisation. The Chamber represents more than 1,300 businesses with almost 130,000 employees in the private sector covering all industry sectors, ranging in size from sole traders to multi-national corporations.
- Skills Development Scotland is the national skills body supporting the people and businesses of Scotland to develop and apply their skills. [www.sds.co.uk](http://www.sds.co.uk). The £12m Transition Training Fund was set up by the Scottish Government and is managed by Skills Development Scotland. It offers support with training grants to help people retrain, upskill or get accreditation or certification that would help them get a new job in oil and gas, the wider energy sector, or engineering and manufacturing. <https://transitiontrainingfund.co.uk/>. The Energy Jobs Taskforce is a strong partnership of industry, public sector and trade union representatives which formed in early 2015 to help tackle the immediate challenges facing the energy sector. <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/knowledge-hub/articles/insight/scotlands-energy-jobs-taskforce>

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