

Title:
NorthEastJobs Bulletin

Please find below important information relating to www.northeastjobs.org

1. System Administrator

I am Stephen McCurry and as of the 2nd of June 2006 I have been the new Portal Administrator for www.northeastjobs.org.

Now, I know what you are going to be thinking! What does a Portal Administrator do?

My duties to date have involved carrying out an awful lot of familiarisation training, learning the back end of the system, working on creating an 'ideal' authority to demonstrate how the myriad amount of options could be used, devising performance measurement tools, creating a customer contact database and generally trying to immerse myself in the portal as much as possible.

I have already been in contact with the majority of you and am carrying out familiarisation meetings with every authority so you can all put a face to the name (and vice versa). Personally, I am finding this an excellent way to get a feel for both the good points and bad points of the system.

There are an awful lot of changes coming up for the system both following the development side having gone live at the start of June and in the implementation and creation of the phase 2 work.

Phase 2 is something I am particularly excited about and have been shouting to anyone who will listen to me about how we could move the portal forward and take it to the cutting edge of what can be achieved on the internet. However, before we get there we must make sure that what we have at present works correctly and is fit for purpose and this is where you all come in.

Your continued feedback of issues or problems you experience is invaluable in ensuring we can provide as robust and complete a solution for your recruitment needs as possible. For the efforts you have made prior to my being in post I would like to pass on the thanks of the team and also assure you that all issues raised are being worked upon.

2. Pastures New

Having successfully managed the design, development and delivery of the first phase of the recruitment portal, David Leask has now taken up the role as project manager for the RIEP's Enabling BPI project.

David built up strong collaborative working relations with the regions local authorities and Fire and Rescue Services, ensuring 100% commitment to the portal project.

We wish David the greatest success in his new role and we are sure he will be a great miss to the ongoing portal project.

3. Who to contact

Below is a breakdown of who you can contact, what they will deal with and how to get in touch with them.

Name	Details	Contact information
Tribal Helpdesk	All technical issues with using the portal from Authorities, Client Organisations and Job Seekers should be addressed directly to the Tribal Helpdesk. The Help Desk is open from 8.30am until 5.30pm, excluding Weekends and Bank Holidays.	Telephone: 0845 873 0122 Email: servicedesk.erecruitment@tribalgroup.co.uk
Stephen McCurry	Queries relating to the use of the system can be addressed to Stephen as well as errors and requests for changes / amendments.	Mobile 07796697596 Email: stephen.mccurry@northeastcouncils.gov.uk
Andrew De'Ath	Portal developments and Subscription information / queries	Mobile 07770 53 79 53 Email: Andrew.DeAth@northeastcouncils.gov.uk
Stuart Gibson	Project management and portal development. Phase 2 suggestions and user group start up.	Mobile: TBC Email stuart.gibson@northeastcouncils.gov.uk

4. Technical Project Manager

Stuart Gibson has been appointed as Technical Project Manager and took up post on 1st July.

Stuart is responsible for the ongoing management and development of the Portal and for rolling Phase 2 of the project out to new partners both regional and national. Early priorities are to restart the user groups and formalise the technical specifications for the Phase 2 enhancements to the portal. The user groups will play an important role in helping to shape the next set of developments for the portal and meetings will be set up in the coming weeks.

5. Portal Developments

CLG have approved funding to the tune of £1.5 million pounds to further develop the portal. This is, obviously, very exciting news and options are being drawn up at present for the best ways to develop the system to enable it to be truly class leading both in the front end for job seekers and also the backend systems for the employer.

One of the largest areas for development is, as I am sure you are aware, the potential national roll out of the system. This will bring even greater monetary savings to authorities as more subscribers are brought into the fixed price model. The system side ramifications for this are of course vast and are one of the areas CLG funding will be used to address.

We are generating a database of ideas at present for features we would like to add and would welcome any input from you, the users of the system as to how you would like to see it develop.

Any ideas you may have please email them to Stephen.mccurry@northeastcouncils.gov.uk and I will add them to the database.

Any queries regarding this issue should be directed to Stuart Gibson or Andrew De'Ath (contact details are in section 3 of this newsletter).

6. Portal Subscriptions

The previously agreed subscription fees for usage of the portal are unlikely to be effected by the developments and should continue 'as is' for the time being.

Again any issues surrounding this matter should be directed to Andrew De'Ath.