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You may have heard of Futures because, for many years we have been:

- Responsible for delivering the National Careers Service (NCS) and a number of large Employability Programmes for D2N2
- And we are an Apprenticeship and Skills Funding Agency funded training provider

And throughout the COVID outbreak we have been:

- Working closely with the LEP and Statutory Stakeholders to support the local economy and to maintain frontline services

All of the services and functions I am going to talk about are either wholly publicly funded or funded jointly with the ESF so they are all free to the beneficiaries and businesses we work with.

Theme	Support	Actions
COVID 19 Business Support	SMT are keeping track of all government announcements in order to be able to support SMEs with accessing the loans, grants and tax relief that have been made available by the government.	If you would like some advice and guidance, please email me and I'll connect you to one of our senior advisers.
Candidate pool	Through our work with the Department for Work and Pensions, NCS and other partners we have access to a substantial pool of good quality candidates drawn from sectors that are contracting as result of the Covid 19 situation who we are looking to redeploy with those employers and sectors that might be experiencing an upsurge in activity.	If you are having to let staff go, or if you have any positions you are trying to fill, please contact me and I'll support with that.
Redundancy support	If you have already made employees redundant or are planning to make redundancies we can support both you as an employer and your employees to manage the transition through online group sessions and one-2-one support using Microsoft teams.	Please contact me again if you need this type of support and I will connect you up with one of our specialist advisers and we will support you.
Apprenticeship delivery	Our apprenticeship offer to businesses is continuing, with our remote on boarding and virtual learning environment allowing apprentices in your business to continue their training. If you are ready to take on a new apprentice, or to support existing staff members to begin a training programme, we can help with that. <i>And, under the Job Retention scheme your team can start or continue an apprenticeship training programme while they are furloughed.</i> <i>Apprenticeship Training Agency - ATA</i>	If you have any questions about apprenticeships or if you would like to convert any of your existing staff roles into apprenticeships please let me know and I'll support you with that.

Training provision	We have a large range of fully funded courses and qualifications that we can offer through online learning platforms such as BKSB for Functional Skills and European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). This “elective” training is fully funded and available to adults (19+) regardless of whether they are employed or unemployed. So, this training can also be offered to staff that have been furloughed under the Job Retention Scheme to keep them engaged and motivated ready for returning to work as soon as the restrictions have been lifted. We can also conduct Training Needs Analyses to work out what training your employees need and would benefit from to address any skills gaps and ensure that you have the workforce you need to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead. From those analyses, we can provide you with impartial advice to signpost you to appropriate training provision and help you to access available funding.	Again, if you want to make enquiries about any of this please contact me.
Sub-contractors and employment agencies	We can work with your sub-contractors, helping them to overcome their workforce challenges so they can continue to supply and meet their contractual obligations to you. We can also help you find agency staff, either through our own Apprenticeship Training Agency (Futures Employment Solutions) or third party employment agencies, allowing you to move quickly and have the staff in place you need.	Please speak to your subcontractors and pass my details on if you think our services may be of benefit to them.
Support to LEP and Statutory Organisations to maintain the essential frontline services through the redeployment of manpower	You may have seen the Care Worker and Cleaning Operative vacancies that Robin kindly posted for me on the BPD social media channels.	If you have any personal or professional contacts that are looking for employment, please direct them my way so that we can see if they are suitable for any of these opportunities and support this effort.