

## **THE MATURE WORKFORCE; Small Business Consultation**

We all know that there are now fewer young people under 16 than there are older people over 65. But did you know that the East Midlands have the fastest growing ageing workforce in the country?

There is an increasing recognition of the need to remove age barriers in the labour market, but is it fair that raising awareness amongst small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is often identified as a particular issue?

Whether or not prompted by the age legislation what are SMEs in the East Midlands already doing to remove the barriers facing older workers?

What kind of support around the ageing workforce do you want from organisations such as the East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*)?

The ageing workforce in the East Midlands presents both opportunities and challenges and *emda* is keen to hear the views of SMEs as it begins to set its forward strategy. Your voice needs to be heard so that the strategy that emerges is relevant to local and regional small and medium employers.

You are invited to an Acas hosted consultation meeting on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April in the Acas offices in Nottingham

The programme offers an over-view of the context and challenges of an ageing workforce and introduces an easy to use tool to aid your own employment practices. At the conclusion Acas is offering one-to-one advice and guidance if you'd like to take the opportunity to talk through any thorny employment issues.

### Programme

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| 2.00pm | Welcome & Overview Noel Lambert, Acas Area Director   |
| 2.05pm | The Ageing Workforce: Barbara Watkins, TAEN -The Age and Employment Network                           |
| 2.20pm | The Age Regulations and The Age Audit Tool.<br>Steve Williams, Equality and Diversity Director, Acas. |
| 3.10pm | Round Table Discussions & Feedback  |
| 4.00pm | Acas Information, Advice and Guidance<br>Free and open access to Acas Advisers                        |

(Light refreshments available throughout)

Please follow the link for the Acas offices in Nottingham:

<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=464>

**If you want to attend, please contact [pauline.henderson@northants-chamber.co.uk](mailto:pauline.henderson@northants-chamber.co.uk) (01604) 490490. by Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**