



# Make spare time pay

A NEW SERVICE IS ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO SELL THEIR SKILLS ONLINE.

➤ Slivers of Time allows people to advertise their spare hours over the internet to prospective employers - bringing groups of local people who have chosen to work in a way that demands freedom and rewards reliability into the labour market.

Under the scheme those interested register with South Liverpool Recruitment. Then they go on-line at Slivers of Time and indicate when they are available. Bookings are made by computer and details conveyed by either e-mail or text message.

With just a click of a mouse, those eager to make an extra buck can set up their diaries, stipulate hourly rates and state the distance they're prepared to travel as well as collect valuable recommendation points.

Working in conjunction with South Liverpool Recruitment Ltd, this technologically savvy system is set to revolutionize Merseyside's employment market.

"Thousands of hours go unsold in the Merseyside economy every day," explained Nick Hughes,

managing director of South Liverpool Recruitment.

"These are hours when individuals would like to be doing something productive and when employers want the option of buying that time. Until now, there has been no marketplace efficient enough for these 'slivers of time' to be traded."

According to a recent poll, 68% of those questioned would consider selling their spare time.

Hundreds of candidates have already registered their interest in the system, with local companies such as South Liverpool Housing and South Liverpool Business Network using the system to get staff on-line.

Sarah Gomery, a 20-year-old marketing student from Maghull, thinks that the Slivers of Time concept will be a lifeline for those who fear growing debt or feel stretched in all directions.

"It's the ideal a solution for those who want to make money whilst studying without sacrificing their grades."

But how safe is the system?

"Completely," said Nick.

"Potential employees will be interviewed and checked by ourselves so there is a guarantee they are genuine. And employers have to go through a similar vetting process.

"This really is a win-win situation in that workers get a chance to work when they want,

while businesses get an opportunity to respond economically and flexibly to their customers' needs."

Even claimants of Jobseeker's allowance can work a few hours without affecting their entitlement, and proponents of Slivers of Time say that doing so gives people valuable experience and a CV.

## Reward for innovation

MERSEYSIDE INNOVATION AWARDS ARE IN FULL SWING

Every year progressive ideas from individuals and small firms are celebrated by the business community.

Prizes of upto £10,000 cash and £4,000 in consultancy support are available. At the grand final in July three finalists will showcase their products before a panel of entrepreneurs and other leading business figures.

Peter Lunt, one of the sponsor group and manager of Commercial Banking Technology Team at NatWest, Liverpool, said: "Over the last few years the number and quality of applications have increased dramatically. The next few months will be a very exciting time as there are so many world class innovators based on Merseyside who are keen to take part"

To obtain an application form please contact Jean Hughes, at Hurst Accountants on 0151 237 5900 or visit the website: [www.merseysideinnovationawards.co.uk](http://www.merseysideinnovationawards.co.uk)