

Employer Occupational Brief

A guide to apprenticeship training and on-programme assessment





Retail Team Leader

October 2016

Overview of the role

Retail team leaders are a critical support to managers, delivering exceptional customer service and a positive experience to customers, and may have to deputise for managers in their absence. The role is dynamic and in one day can involve a variety of different functions. Most significantly retail team leaders guide and coordinate the work of the team to complete tasks, identify and explore opportunities that drive sales, ensuring team members maintain business standards in relation to merchandising, service and promotional activities, in line with procedures. Retail team leaders gain the most from their team on a day to day basis, ensuring they are fully trained and work effectively and to the best of their ability.

The detail behind the standard

	Knowledge 'Know it'	Skills 'Show it'	Behaviours 'Live it'
Customer	Understand the customer profile/type of	Monitor customers' enquiries and service	Act as a role model to
Every business will have a customer profile – the types of customer that are likely to require the	the business, their purchasing habits across a retail calendar year and how to meet and exceed their needs. Know the best ways to drive the team to increase sales, secure customer loyalty and attain business	requirements; coach and support team members to use appropriate methods e.g. face to face or remote such as on-line facilities, to deliver consistent and exceptional service that provides customers	champion excellent customer service by always looking to improve customers' experience through a welcoming and
products and services on offer. Different	targets	with a positive experience	professional approach which builds strong customer
customer types will	The different customer profiles/types within their business	 Evidence of analysing customer enquiries and service requirements 	relationships Consistently seeks out
have different needs and requirements	Different types of business profiles	Recognising the need to coach and support	opportunities to improve
and the way service is	Understanding purchasing habits and how they change across the year	team membersLeading by example in choosing the most	the customer experience through researching of
provided may need to be adapted.	How to recognise when you are able to	appropriate communication method e.g. face	other retailers, social media, discussions with
Customers could be internal or external	exceed a customer's needsHow to drive and motivate a team to	to face, text, onlineDemonstrates influencing behaviours when	colleagues
to the business	 achieve sales targets Understanding different types of customer 	 dealing with customers Evidence of analysing data and trends to 	Has a visible postive and professional presence at all times
	loyalty schemes and their valueHow to increase customer retention	monitor, predict and meet product and service requirements	unics



	 Who the different stakeholders are within the customer relationship How to set targets that are SMART How to use appropriate data to analyse sales 	 Evidence of sharing customer feedback with team members Demonstrates effective communication methods using both open and closed techniques and positive body language Demonstrates empathy to the customers when necessary Higher level Go beyond customer's expectations consistently for example from complaint to compliment 	 Is proactive at facilitating and acting on feedback Is empowered to support the most appropriate customer solution.
Business	Understand the purpose of the business	Work with the team to maintain brand /	Demonstrate personal
The term 'brand	including its vision, objectives and brand /	business standards at all times and identify	responsibility for meeting
standards' is relevant	business standards, how they compare to its	and address any potential risks according to	the objectives of the team
to all sizes of	competitors and how own role, and the	business procedures	and the business
businesses. In some cases, the brand may be well known, or require employees to follow precise procedures for example in the way they deliver services or present products	 The purpose of a vision statement, the benefits to the business as a whole and how it impacts on own role and the team What a brand standard is and how this can affect a business The importance of the business' brand standards, in relation to the product and/or services it offers 	 Interact with customers and team members and build a rapport in a way that demonstrates an understanding of the business vision, objectives and brand standards Evidence of working to brand standards through the completion of specific procedures Adopt and influence the team to use service techniques and procedures that deliver the brand standards 	 Be the advocate of the brand standard or style of business Show external awareness of who the competitors are and how they differentiate the unique selling points



to customers. In
others it may simply
be what is 'in
keeping' with the
type of retail business
the employee works
in

- Understand the competitors brand standards and unique selling points
- The purpose of setting objectives and why they are important for businesses to be successful
- How own role and team performance drives and supports the business objective
- The importance of training and development in brand standards and objectives to drive the business and achieve targets

- Carry out all activities in a manner that promotes the value of the business brand standards to customers, team members and other stakeholders (e.g. suppliers)
- Demonstrate efficiency and effectiveness when there is a risk to brand standards that may jeopardise the business
- Demonstrate how you assist in setting objectives for the team.

 Display a proactive attitude towards achieving objectives e.g. updating the team verbally or written

Financial

Operating with financial awareness is essential at every level within the retail environment. A retailer must understand the principle resource costs of a business and ensure that sales targets and cost control and reduction

Understand how own actions and those of the team can contribute to the overall financial performance of the business by increasing sales e.g. through product positioning, and minimising costs through effective stock control and prevention of theft

- Understand how to apply general principles of operating commercially in a retail envronment
- Understand the different profit margins to be achieved on products and how this influcences decision making
- Understand where to locate key financial information internally within

Support the achievement of financial targets by planning and monitoring resources. Use resources effectively and efficiently to meet expected demand. Oversee the areas that impact on financial performance in own area of the business in line with business procedures

- Being able to translate the information required by the team for example financial reports relevent to the department
- Interpreting sales reports and being able to plan and take action
- Planning ahead for peak and seasonal trading periods e.g. staffing, products/Stock

Demonstrate commercial awareness and act responsibly and with integrity to protect the financial position of the business

- Role model being able to demonstrate the principles to the team.
- Demonstrate awareness of branch financial performance against set targets/budget



		performance through people	
methods are met in line with own role	the organisation eg budgets, gross profit, stock and what these figures are. How the achievement of team goals impacts the wider business financially Understanding the impact of stock control on profit and the role of the wider team Understand how variable costs impact the business for example seasonal staff. Principles of establishing, monitoring and reviewing sales targets What the key costs for a retail team are Knowledge of how to minimise costs and wastage An understanding of VAT	 Implement company procedure in instances of financial loss e.g. wastage/theft Evidence of how you ensure the team understand and take repsonsibility for the prevention of loss and how this impacts the business financially Demonstrate how you support and motivate the team to meet finance targets Demonstrate how you monitor resources in own areas of responsibility, to then increase or decrease to achieve targets 	 Translate informatic clarity to Taking appotential idnetified communimanager Higher Lev Being ablarecomme proposals financial
Leadership	Understand how to organise the team on a	Use available information to coordinate the	Display de
Leadership skills and styles play a large part in how you manage your team.	daily basis to achieve objectives, and recognise the importance of contingency planning to meet business requirements; know limits of authority when deputising for line manager	work of the team so that the right people and resources are in the right place at the right time to ensure consistent brand / business standards are delivered. Deputise for line manager within limits of own	when maki are in the l the busines judgement action in th
You need to be fully aware of the roles and responsibilities of	A knowledge of the managers role and responsibilities in order to understand and deputise	authority Demonstrate efffective and efficient organisation skills including prioritising and	problems r resources • Display

- to be able to allocate resources appropriately
- putting in place contingency plans

- te financial ation which gives to the team.
- action when a al risk has been ed and inicating this to the

evel Skills

ble to present nendations and als for increasing al performance

those you work with to achieve the objectives set by

- Understanding the team dynamics and skills
 - Evidence to show how you differentiate between coaching and directing a team.

ecisive thinking king decisions that best interest of ess. Use sound nt; take prompt the case of relating to

- y confidence when making difficult decisions
- Consult with others before making decisions and



able to make decisions to the benefit of the	 Understanding of the performance management policies and procedures Understand key leadership styles, qualities and skills and how to adapt to achieve objectives Why is contingency planning important to the business 	 Effective communication to provide clear direction and support to the team in understanding their role and responsibilities. Use effective feedback to support a team in fulfilling their own potential to meet their objectives/task. Lead by example in carrying out own job role in accordance with the brand standards policies and procedures Demonstrate how you confidently and successfully challenge your team when they are not meeting brand standards 	gather all available information Be able to make prompt decisions on resources
--	---	--	---



Marketing By fully understanding the products and services offered by the business and how the business positions itself a retailer can fully maximise performance and	Understand how the brand / business is positioned externally, particularly in relation to local and online competitors and how its products / services meet consumer trends. Understand how own actions, and those of the team can impact on customers' perception of the brand / business	Support the team to ensure they understand and engage in the marketing activities and plans of the business and help ensure that customers have the best possible experience • Effectively communicate all marketing activity to support the team • Role model high knowledge of marketing strategies and initiatives	Proactively seek to understand local consumer trends, competitors' offers and promotions, and customer needs and expectations, report to manager, seek feedback and take action in area of responsibility
help to position the business effectively and deliver on its objectives	 Understand the competition from local and online retailers in relation to their products or services Explain where the business is positioned in relation to the local and online competition Knowledge and understanding of what current marketing initiatives are in use Know where to get information from both internally and externally Knowledge of legal governance around marketing campaigns Understand how to support the team to ensure that they are aware of all marketing initiatives currently in use 	 Ensure compliance is adherred to and implemented Implementing and interpreting the marketing activities Display commercial awareness Use knowledege of customer type to maximise sales Make recommendations to improve marketing and promotional activity Higher Level Gathering intellegence to support improvements to marketing 	 Research competitors marketing activities through visits to stores, social media and websites Keep up to date with current trends in own area of product or service through websites, online forums, social media platforms and communicating with customers on this area Feedback to management on any relevant findings



	 How can marketing strategies be communicated to the wider team Know the needs of actual and potential customers Know when to escalate potential threats to the business through competitor activity Know the impact your marketing strategy has on a customers purchasing decision 		
	 Know how as a business you can support local external initiatives (Healthy eating for school children so you may move sweets from the till as an example and replace with fruit) Know how seasonality impacts marketing campaigns 		
Communication	Understand how to support effective	Adapt style of communication	Demonstrate positive
Excellent	communication, quickly determining the	according to the audience, monitor	verbal and body language
communication is	situation and needs of individuals and how	the effectiveness of and encourage	using concise and clear
essential in any retail	to respond in the most appropriate way	excellent communications across all	methods of
environment.	using a variety of techniques and methods,	operations that achieve the best result	communication, taking on
Methods of	for example face to face or remote, spoken	for the business including face to face	board other peoples' points
communication could	or written, manual or electronic	or remote, spoken or written, manual	of view and responding in a
be face to face or		or electronic	way that is considerate to
	The variety of methods of communication available and how to	Demonstrate being responsive to the audience	the audience
remote, spoken or	use these effectively depending on the	and show an abilty to interpret a range of cue's	
written, manual or	situation and audience	Evidence of using constructive feeback, being	Visibly displays consistent
electronic.	Face to face, remote, spoken, written,	able to coach and encourage skills in team	and appropriate body
Communication	manual, electronic methods taking into	members	language when dealing with



needs to be effective and suited to the audience	consideration brand standard / corporate image • How to establish the needs of individuals (team members and customers) • Principles of active listening • Principles of open questioning • The importance of feedback	 Handle difficult conversations with confidence resulting in acceptable resolutions for both the customer and business Show consistentcy in communication resulting in clarity with the team and fewer complaint escalations. Evidence of written communcation responding to emails or online in line with company procedures. Appropriate communication including an awareness of the setting. eg presentations, meetings, feedback. Higher Level Demonstrate developing the team in being able to handle difficult conversations 	customers and team members alike Seeks out feedback and acts accordingly and considerately Suggests ways in which the business could improve communications in terms of process, types or procedures
Sales and promotion Each retailer will have a seasonal variation to their sales pattern, and therefore sales	Understand the factors which can determine and affect sales and promotions throughout the retail year and how to coordinate and implement them to support business objectives Understanding the customers and their changing habits	Communicate sales targets to the team and support them, recognising and acting on opportunities to maximise revenue, for example through link selling and drawing customers' attention to promotional offers	Proactive in looking for cost effective sales opportunities and ways to enhance revenue • Actively keeps up to date with sales and promotions the competition are undertaking



approach. This could be in the range of products and services on offer, the customer behaviour, or could be tied to external events, such as sporting events or festive celebrations. Retail businesses also need to take into consideration general sales patterns throughout the year in order to plan	 Knowledge of competitors changes in products and services Understanding how customer service affects sales and promotions and ensuring all staff are aware of this Knowledge of external factors and events that can affect sales and promotions such as political, economic and environmental Understanding what sales and promotions will be effective and knowledge of best sellers, loss leaders and interpreting sales related data 	 Verbal and non-verbal communication skills to support the team in understanding and interpreting the sales figures and targets, making it visual and bringing it to life. Analytical skills to interpret data. Recognising and responding to opportunities for value added sales Identify bestsellers and loss leaders. Recognising when the team need additional training and support in sales skills. Ensuring communication is relevant and at regular/appropriate intervals. Responding quickly when external factors are affecting sales and promotions 	 Consistently positive with regard to sales and promotions Proactive in suggesting new sales and promotions activities
effectively. Product and service Knowledge and understanding of the products and services on offer are key in order to correctly sell to customers, meet	Know and promote the features and benefits of products / services, their unique selling points, the skills required to sell them, where items fit into product ranges, associated products and services, where to find detailed information if required and	Maximise opportunities to increase sales by ensuring team know and understand the features, benefits, unique selling points and other relevant information relating to products, product ranges and services offered by the business • Lead by example to ask customers questions about the products / services they are looking	Promote all products and services confidently, demonstrating excellent knowledge and understanding of them • Consistently adhere to all procedures and processes with regard to product knowledge.



and exceed their	other rele
expectations and do	lead time
so in line with business procedures and objectives	 Be known praction range benefit Known this Known appropring them a

other relevant information such as delivery lead time, accessibility and source

- Be knowledgeable in, as far as is reasonably practicable, the full product and service range particularly the unique selling points, benefits and features
- Knowledge of additional information about the product and service and where to find this
- Know the provenance of products where appropriate, how long it will take to acquire them and delivery times if applicable

- for and the features and benefits that will meet or exceed their needs
- Planning appropriate resource to ensure that product and service knowledge is available
- Encourage team members to share knowledge and expertise
- Identify products / services which match customer requirements
- Discuss relevant options, giving customers opportunities to ask questions and clarify information
- Close the sale with the customer, confirming what they want to buy and provide relevant information e.g. any relevant customer rights
- Decide if it is appropriate to sell additional products / services to the cusomter and highlight them accordingly
- Feedback on performance relating to sales on all of the above
- Identify skills gaps within the team on product knowledge and service
- Support knowledge development around products and services within the team

Higher level skills:

 Accurately describe the features and benefits of relevant products to customers in a way which helps them identify the differences

- Regularly seeks out opportunities to exceed the customer expectations with their product knowledge
- Suggests to managers ways in which other team members could increase their product knowledge such as trips to manufacturers



		 Comprehensive range of product knowledge and understanding can be demonstrated over and above what a customer can find for themselves. Can clearly and accurately summarise information to others in a way which is easily understood Genuine rapport with customer and going off script when engaging with them Breadth of knowledge around benefits, insight into usefulness of product specs 	
Merchandising	Know methods of merchandising	Ensure team replenish and maintain	Communicate and
Presentation of products and services is a key factor in their appeal and potential sale to customers. Each retail outlet, product or service will need to be given careful consideration when preparing and producing merchandising displays / initiatives	throughout the retail operation, including point of sale, the retail calendar and local needs e.g. geographical, topical or weather based • Understand the principles of merchandising and what this means in a retail environment • Understand the key principles of the retail calendar • Knowledge of how local needs can influence merchandising • Why it is important to follow merchandising plans Undertand why merchandising maximises geographical differences	 merchandising according to business requirements, the retail calendar and local needs e.g. geographical, topical or weather based Effectively communicate the merchandising plan including peak period e.g. sporting events Interpret the merchandising brief and communicate this effectively to teams Demonstrate how you ensure merchandising meets the needs of the brief and maintains brand standards. Ensure that staff know how to keep displays as per the merchandising plan and brand standard 	 encourage the merchandising principles, standards and commerciality to the team Proactively seek out new merchandising opportunities and methods through checking the competition, forums and social media platforms Develop a culture that encourages all staff to



			embrace each
			merchandising initiative
			 Ensure all staff are aware
			of the commercial benefit
			of merchandising
Stock	Understand the principles of stock control	Ensure team complies with stock procedures	Take a proactive
	from sourcing to sale / supply. Understand	to minimise stock damage or loss, maximise	approach and lead the
Stock is a critical part	the management of stock levels, security,	income and comply with legal requirements;	team to effective stock
of any business,	restrictions (e.g. age restricted products),	and take appropriate action to sell stock that	management, ensuring
whether as items	wastage and effective systems for	is near the end of its product, promotional or	stock is accessible and
directly for sale or	recording them	shelf life	available in line with
availability and		sites life	quality requirements,
support services.	Knowledge of basic stock control principles	Demonstrate how to communicate the stock	where and when needed
Staff need to know	principlesWho the main suppliers are	procedures to the team	 Lead by example in
why the control of	Understand the organisations own stock	Being able to apply logic and common sense to situations connected to stock	following all stock
stock is so important	procedures	Display investigative skills when stock procedures	procedures
and how to ensure	Understand the legal requirements in	have not been followed as per company	Be proactive in suggesting
stock control is	relation to stock	standards	ideas to management to
effectively completed	 The stock journey, from supply to sale including 	Be vigilant for stock losses and inform team	increase turnover of stock in areas where it may be at
in their business	 Why storage conditions are important for effective stock control How to effectively and efficiently manage stock levels Legal requirements relating to stock control, movement and sale (e.g. age restricted, fireworks) 	 members to do the same Ability to minimise the potential for loss of stock and communicate this to team members Demonstrate confidence in decision making that complies with legislation and/or company policy on shelf life/promotional period of stock. Record and investigate loss/damage of stock. 	the end of its shelf, product or promotional life



Technology Technology varies greatly between retail operations; however, it is essential a retailer understands and is able to effectively use the technology within their organisation. In addition retailers should possess a general	 Knowledge of reporting loss and damage to stock Understand how current and emerging technologies support retail operations and sales whether customer facing or remote, and how best to operate them to achieve an efficient and effective service Knowledge of how technology can assist in making a retail operation more effective and efficient Types of technology available and currently in use as well as emerging systems Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the use of these technologies in the retail environment 	Oversee the appropriate use of technology in line with business policy and follow the appropriate procedures to deal with service issues • Demonstrate using technology consistently and effectively and support the team doing so • Ensure that you support your team members when there is a system failure and follow company procedures • Monitor team performance in relation to the use of technology available and where appropriate support team performance (e.g. till scan rates)	Is an advocate for the effective and efficient use of technology • Leads by example in the use of technology and reacts positively to any new or changes in the systems • Is proactive in researching new technologies through social media, trade publications and competitors
-	environment		



Developing self and others

As a team leader you have some responsibility of ensuring your team are trained and supported to be able to carry out their job roles in the most effective and efficient way possible to the benefit of the business. You also need to encourage a culture of continual learning and development amongst your team. Each business will be different in how they approach this and for larger units you will be supported by

Understand the knowledge, skills and behaviours required of self and others to develop a high performing team in the business. Understand team dynamics and the importance of enabling team members to appreciate their role in the wider organisation and in meeting business objectives

- Knowledge of their team, the different roles within a team and who holds these in their own team
- Understanding how to carry out a performance review effectively using company procedures
- Knowledge of SMART planning and target setting to meet team and individual objectives
- Understanding how to motivate and monitor team members to achieve objectives
- Understanding leadership styles and recognising when to use the different types
- Recognising own skills and behaviours and where improvement is required
- Knowledge of how the team fits into the organisation

Plan, organise, prioritise and oversee own and team members' activities, supporting their induction, training, development and coaching, and delegating tasks fairly and appropriately to meet business objectives

- Evidence of an active development plan for self
- Encourage development of individuals in the team e.g. career conversations/personal development opportunities
- Encourage team members to reflect on everyday learning and identify opportunities for development.
- Ensure all team has completed all compulsory training.
- Evidence of developing own coaching skills
- Uses own performance reviews to improve and develop
- Active record of progress/ learning log
- Evidence of carrying out performance reviews with team members and actively encouraging them to seek development

Take responsibility for own performance, learning and development. Develop positive relationships with team members, embracing new and better ways of working

- Proactively search out opportunities to improve own performance, learning and development
- Attend any training courses as requested
- Research online learning forums and other social media platforms to improve self and others
- Share ideas with team members and promote a 'better never stops' attitude and philosophy



learning/training/deve			
lopment colleagues			
as well as line			
management.			
Team Performance	Know how to identify and develop	Lead the team on a daily basis, setting targets	Positively and confidently
Team Teriormance	•		·
As a team leader in	excellent team performance. Understand	and reviewing progress against them.	challenge poor performance
retail you will need to	how the performance of the team	Motivate team members, provide coaching	and reward excellent
understand how to	contributes to the overall success of the	and on the job training. Identify conflict within	performance in line with
motivate a team as	business	the team and work to resolve this with	business procedures
well as coaching and	Understand individual team members	support from others	Looks for different
developing your staff.	needs	Build relationships with each team member to	opportunities in how you
This will include	 Knowledge of barriers the team may 	maximise and fulfil their potential to deliver	reward excellent performance
knowledge of teams	face in contributing to the overall success of the business	results	where permissible
and how they work	 Success of the business Understanding when a team is 	Identify potential conflict situations within a	Use coaching and development skills where
effectively, conflict in	performing well and why	team	team members have not



teams, how best to minimise it and how to encourage team work.	 Understanding conflict in a team and knowing what can be done to minimise this. Understand conflict resolution techniques Understanding of relevant company 	 Applying the most appropriate approach to resolving conflicts Demonstrate emotional intelligence Display patience and reflection to see the situation from others points of view Confidently make a balanced judgement 	achieved targets or objectives to ensure staff remain positive.
	 policies and procedures What the benefits of team building activities are How to celebrate and recognise team success Knowledge of how to measure team performance and success 	 Demonstrate how you use performance management procedures to achieve success Recognise non-performance and act on this according to company procedures Evidence of how you coach a team member or members Co-ordinate team building activities where necessary 	





		Ensure all team members attend training with regard to legislation	
Diversity A retail business must ensure that its products / services are appropriate to the customer base available to it, which may require	Understand how to work with and support people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures and the business policy on diversity The range of cultures, characteristics and individual requirements that can affect team members and customers and how and why these may affect the operations / products in a retail environment	Ensure team members are aware of and follow business policies relating to diversity. Make reasonable adjustments as required for customers or team members • Evidence of disseminating Company Policy • Ensure all mandatory training is undertaken by the team. • Use internal support service for providing reasonable adjustments	Operate in an empathic, fair and professional manner with all individuals regardless of background and circumstances Be mindful of team member's background and cultures when planning activities,
amendments to product and services, methods of communication and individual adjustments. A retailer needs to understand and adapt	 Knowledge of local demographics and how this is reflected in products and services available Understand how cultures, backgrounds and belief conventions need to be addressed within the retail environment 	Demonstrate how you uphold and implement the equality and diversity policies in your workplace	 events, training sessions etc. Lead by example in being empathetic, fair and professional with all individuals
to changing requirements whilst remaining fair and demonstrating integrity to both			



customers and		
colleagues alike		