



Testimonials – read what our members think about membership and how it has helped them

1. **ST*R Learning** has been a member of Croydon Chamber of Commerce for over ten years. The reason for our continuous renewal of membership has been the good return on investment on our membership fee. Through our membership we have built up a strong network of business people who give us advice, support and help us to reach our target markets. We've created **good brand awareness** in South London. We've found opportunities through London Chamber of Commerce events and made use of their Members' Lounge. We've combined business with pleasure at a great range of useful and enjoyable events. Thanks for providing us with so many opportunities.

Carolle Thompson, Commercial Director, ST*R Learning

2. I have found the Chamber to be very useful, not only have I made good contacts with the **key decision makers** of companies, I have attended other functions (such as the employment skills debate) which have been very useful to my position. It is much nicer meeting people in an informal environment and you get access to many people at the same time rather than holding individual meetings. Establishing a relationship with others helps the wheels of business turn around. These relationships can then be reinforced through The Grapevine Network meetings.

Emma Shepherd, Employment Consultant, Croydon Day Opportunities Ltd

3. **The HR Dept (South London)** has been a member of Croydon Chamber of Commerce for nearly ten years. The Chamber has been at the centre of our marketing strategy since we joined and we can trace back over 40% of our customers to contacts that we have made through our membership. We find the **Executive Club lunches particularly helpful** and regularly take a table giving us the opportunity to entertain our customers and to introduce them to each other to extend their network. Access to London Chamber of Commerce is also invaluable and we take full advantage of all of the events and other resources that are available.

Fintan O'Toole, Director, The HR Dept

4. The Chamber has provided us with excellent networking opportunities. Being a member helped us to secure a contract (only because we are Chamber members). We managed to get great publicity and raise our company's profile. Their **social media** has been useful as it has added credibility to our profile and we gained more followers on Twitter. We had a full

page coverage about our business in the **London Business Matters magazine**, which has been a great opportunity to share our story and promote our services. I would recommend every business in Croydon join Croydon Chamber of Commerce, it will pay off and bring very valuable connections.

Yuliana Topazly, Owner / Manager My Outspace Business Centre

5. Since taking out **Shiloh PR's** membership of Croydon Chamber of Commerce, we've been thrilled with the opportunities it has given us, from the frequent networking sessions, to some amazing training. One benefit which we have personally found more than cover our membership fee is being able to use the **prestigious Members' Lounge** at the London Chamber of Commerce. For a small home-based business like ours, having this facility has been invaluable when meeting clients and also enabling us to avoid the isolation of working on your own at home.

Evadney Campbell, MBE, Managing Director, Shiloh PR

6. **Whiston Solutions** joined the Croydon Chamber of Commerce 12 months ago with a view to expand our established resource network and raise our business profile. Our diverse business offering requires a lot of networking to ensure we deliver the most effective solutions for our clients. We have attended numerous networking events organised by the Croydon Chamber of Commerce and have been pleasantly surprised by the number of **collaborative opportunities** resulting directly from its membership. An added bonus is the **Members' Lounge** near Cannon Street, which we frequent when working in the City, as well as access to London Chamber of Commerce events. Here's to the next 12 months and look forward to meeting future Croydon Chamber members.

Paul Whiston, Managing Director, Whiston Solutions Ltd

7. Being a member of the Croydon Chamber of Commerce has provided **Croydon Business Venture** with regular opportunities to meet other businesses in the local area in a friendly and supportive face-to-face environment through the networking events. Annabel and Saffron are both very **knowledgeable and approachable** and go out of their way to make new members feel welcomed and introduce them to other members that might be able to help. They have also provided us with the opportunity to reach out to a lot more businesses which may need business advice or support to help them grow and in helping promote social media initiatives such as #CroyBizHour and our events to assist start-ups in Croydon.

Geoff Ranson, Croydon's Business Navigator

8. Two years ago we were embarking on a new venture, to establish and market digital leadership with the use of technology, to enable us to offer industry specific training to the education and business sector. **The Chamber's knowledge and guidance was and still is invaluable**, it has led me to collaborate with the Study Centre at CPFC that is also the Croydon Regional Training Centre for Apple. Together we have developed and delivered a wide range of inspirational and motivational educational programme for our local schools but we are now specialising in boosting key skills across the curriculum. In my opinion the service we have received has been a true representation of what the Chamber of Commerce stands for, **to support and develop new business in Croydon**.

Daniel Mullings, CEO, Techembrace

9. One great aspect of being a member is the networking events, particularly The Grapevine Network. The format is relaxed but business-like and being there has definitely raised both

mine and the company's profile along with **generating more business** for us.
Tony Gallagher, Print Manager, White Label Consultants

10. I have met some great companies including Bryden Johnson who are my accountants and I'm thrilled with their service offering. I really feel they will help grow my business and on a personal level, they are also supporting me with mortgage advice. As I'm new to the Croydon area, this is of great value to me as I trust them completely. I have had a fruitful meeting with **Croydon Council** which would not have been achieved in such a timely manner had I not been a chamber member. The big one for me is meeting a wonderful collection of **like-minded driven individuals**.

Shalina Alabaksh, Director, SkillsMaze
