

## London Skills and Employment Board Update I

May 2007

### INTRODUCTION

---

This paper will update you on the latest developments regarding the skills agenda in London and how SkillsActive are responding to the exciting challenges ahead.

### BACKGROUND TO THE LONDON SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

---

The London Skills and Employment Board (LSEB) has been established to provide leadership in improving adult skills and employment in London.

The LSEB is chaired by the Mayor of London and is employer-led to ensure that its work is driven by the needs of employers and that skills provision meets the existing and future needs of the London workforce.

At the first meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December Ken Livingstone opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the Board and acknowledged the shared interests and concerns that had brought them together as follows:

- ✚ incidence of poverty and worklessness in London and especially in East London;
- ✚ challenges of ensuring the London workforce is able to respond to the demands of the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games;
- ✚ high dependence on migrants and daily commuters to London to meet skills shortages;
- ✚ relentless competition London continues to face from other major cities both nationally and internationally.

In response to these challenges, the Board would need to set in place an adult skills and employment strategy that not only focused on further education institutions but also engaged the broader public and private sector

communities to help the citizens of London reach their full potential. It was noted that the skills and employment strategy should reflect London's uniqueness and take account of the changing nature of employment within London. The Mayor stated his determination to get the 'package' right and to develop an agenda which would also encourage employers to commit funds to up-skilling their employees.

The Vice Chair, Harvey McGrath Chair is responsible for establishing the governance arrangements for the operation of the Board's committees.

The Board members introduced themselves and outlined some of the key challenges that they thought the Board would need to consider in the formulation of its strategy and in the development of its work programme. In particular, they noted the importance of:

- ✚ promoting work-based learning;
- ✚ ensuring the skills offer was demand-led and reflected the needs of employers;
- ✚ persuading employers to invest more in the skills development of their workforce;
- ✚ encouraging Londoners to have a more positive attitude to lifelong learning;
- ✚ empowering individuals to reach their potential and to bring about greater equality of opportunity;
- ✚ ensuring London is able to compete with other major world cities; and
- ✚ developing an holistic approach that was creative and inspirational and also sustainable over the longer-term.

# SkillsActive briefing

The LSEB will be responsible for a budget of over £400 million a year for 19+ education regarding skills and workforce development.

The Mayor is currently in discussion with Gordon Brown regarding an increase in funding for London and challenging the requirement to sign up to the learning and Skills Councils PSA targets. On both fronts this could be very good for our sector

## SKILLS FOR BUSINESS NETWORK

---

There are 25 Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) make up the Skills Business Network responsible for all industry sectors across the UK. Together, the SSCs cover approximately 85 per cent of the UK workforce.

They are tasked by Government to represent all employers in their industry sectors to:

- ✚ reduce skills gaps and shortages
- ✚ improve productivity, business and public service performance
- ✚ increase opportunities to boost the skills and productivity of everyone in the sector's workforce
- ✚ improve learning supply including apprenticeships, higher education and National Occupational Standards (NOS).

All SSCs have undertaken detailed research work support the above and to identify employer's requirements up until 2014, known as the Sector Skills Agreement (SSA). The SSA defines the profile of its work force, skills required for each industry sector, skills shortages, gaps between supply and demand and solutions for the future. This research will be used in London to inform the new skills and employment strategy for London.

The Leitch Review gives more powers to the SSCs in endorsing future qualifications and determining which qualifications are eligible for subsidised funding.

The SSCs are working together on different cross sector issues such as customer service, Skills for Life, equality and Diversity. SkillsActive leads on Management and Leadership on behalf of the Skills for Business Network

SSCs provide employers with a unique forum to express the skills and productivity needs that are pertinent to their sector. By coming together as SSCs, employers have:

- ✚ greater dialogue with government and devolved administration departments across the UK
- ✚ greater impact on policies affecting skills and productivity
- ✚ increased influence with education and training partners
- ✚ substantial public investment.

## SKILLSACTIVE'S ROLE TO DATE

---

### London Skills Forum

SkillsActive is a member of the London Skills Forum (LSF) which is where all 25 SSCs in London discuss their employer requirements to inform the key policy makers in London such as the LSC, LDA and GLA. The chair of LSF, Dinah Caine, is also on the London Skills and Employment Board

### London Skills influencing Group

A sub group has been established to develop a strategy to influence and support the LSEB in developing their skills strategy for the next year. The SkillsActive Regional

# SkillsActive briefing

Development Manager is a member of the group with Skillset (Media), Skills for Health, Lantra (Environmental and Land based industries), People 1<sup>st</sup> (Hospitality and Tourism) CITB(Construction)

## ESF External Steering Group

The SkillsActive Regional Development Manager, on behalf of the Skills for Business network, is a member of the ESF External Steering, which is responsible for determining the allocation of £320 million of European funding for London for the period 2008 and 2013. Membership of the group includes the GLA, GOL, LSC, LDA, London Councils (formerly the ALG) and DWP. It is proposed to launch the prospectus detailing the priorities and tender specifications linked to the Regional Framework.

SkillsActive will ensure the sector is informed on all the latest developments and opportunities it presents regarding the funding for specific programmes which will benefit the workforce development of the sector.

## 2012 LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

SkillsActive is playing a major role in supporting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Both Stephen Studd, Chief Executive, and Jackie Hayhoe, Regional Development Manager are members or co chairs of all of the major groups leading on skills:

### Stephen Studd

Co chair of the Sector Skills Council cluster group known as the Skills Legacy group. The aim of the groups is to help to deliver a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games and create a lasting skills legacy by:

### 1) Ensuring the availability of a skilled workforce:

- a) To prepare and maintain the infrastructure and facilities
- b) To deliver the 2012 Games.

### 2) Contributing to Sustainable Communities:

- a) By ensuring that people can access local opportunities which will improve their qualifications and skills levels as well as their employment prospects
- b) By training and qualifying thousands of local people in skills leading to employment generated by the Games and ensuring that they gain skills which contribute to their continued employment post 2012.

### 3) Raising UK competitiveness:

- a) By sharing best practice in developing the skills for other such similar, large scale events.
- b) By using the experience of improving skills to a standard suitable for staging such a high profile, international event to develop skills for the wider economy in areas such as customer service and management and leadership.

# SkillsActive briefing

## Jackie Hayhoe

- ✚ Member of the London Employment and Skills Taskforce
- ✚ Member of the London Employer Accord
- ✚ Member of the 2012 Volunteer Strategy Group
- ✚ Invited by LOCOG to chair the Skills Training and Qualifications sub group. Responsible for developing the training programme for all volunteers
- ✚ Drafted Skills, Training and Qualifications chapter in the 2012 Volunteer Strategy. Endorsed by LOCOG and Olympic Board
- ✚ Member of PVP sub group of the 2012 Volunteer Strategy Group.
- ✚ Leading on the development of an Olympic Unit in conjunction with LOCOG, British Olympic association and the British Paralympic Association

---

## SUMMARY

The next stages are crucial for our sector with regards to the skills debate in London. SkillsActive will continue to actively lobby and work with key stakeholders such as the LSC, GLA and LDA. We will endeavour to keep you informed of all of the developments as they happen.