

AUGUST PLAYWORK UPDATE

Number 7 - August 2007

Update on development of SCQF Level 9 Awards

In August 2006, Scottish Ministers published their response to the National Review of the Early Years and Childcare Workforce- "Investing in Children's Futures" and asked the SSSC to take forward key proposals. These included the development of an integrated qualifications and professional development framework. This has involved developing a benchmark standard in Childhood Practice at SCQF Level 9, which outlines the professional standards and personal commitments; the professional knowledge and understanding, and the professional skills and abilities expected of this workforce. SkillsActive has represented the playwork sector in the development of this Standard through both the Technical Experts Group and the National Review Strategic Steering Group.

The initial group expected to obtain the new award from 2011 will be early years' managers. Managers in playwork and out of school care settings will be affected at a later date.

The new Level 9 awards will recognise prior learning, so course providers will need to ensure learners are given credit when it can be demonstrated that the learning matches the standard. Another feature will be accessible and flexible delivery using a range of technologies to support this process. In addition those providing courses should work with other trainers and with employers to combine the best possible knowledge and skills when delivering the awards.

The new Standard in Childhood Practice will be launched in October 2007, with further information to be made available at this time. SkillsActive will continue to be involved in the development of the Level 9 awards.

Playwork Level 2 NOS Review

SkillsActive has completed its final consultation to review the Playwork National Occupational Standards (NOS) at Level 2. The

purpose of the Review was to update the Standards in line with recent developments in education, training and qualifications and with the Playwork Principles.

After a period of detailed consultation the Technical Experts Group has agreed on four mandatory units and eight optional units. An Occupational and Subject Competence Statement has now been agreed by this group for those involved in delivering Playwork qualifications. The Playwork Assessment Strategy Annex has also been re-written to meet Government legislation on age discrimination.

For further information on the new Level 2 NOS Review click [here](#).

SkillsActive launches Playwork Workforce Development Toolkit

SkillsActive has launched a Workforce Development Planning toolkit for the playwork sector. This resource is aimed at all sizes of organisation and will take you through six simple stages, resulting in a complete Workforce Development Plan. This is designed to help you to build the skills and knowledge of playworkers (paid or unpaid); and to improve the quality of the play opportunities which you provide for children and young people.

This resource is FREE to members or £40 +pp for non-members. For further information click [here](#).

Scottish Executive announces new Early Years, Childcare and Play Capital Fund 2007-08

The Scottish Executive has announced that a new £8m capital fund is to be made available to Local Authorities in Scotland in 2007-08. The purpose of the fund is to improve the quality and accessibility of

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early years, childcare and play facilities and to provide scope for integrated service delivery.

The £8m total funding will be distributed to local authorities using the childcare strategy formula and applications must be submitted by 30th September 2007.

Scottish UNCR Report published

The Scottish Executive has now published 'A Report on Implementation on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Scotland 1999-2007'. SkillsActive has contributed to the consultation process and play is now recognised within this report under 'Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities', sections 540-544, linked to Articles 15 and 31.

To access the full report click [here](#).

Professionalising Playwork – SkillsActive conference

SkillsActive is planning to host a conference for playworkers on **Tuesday 19th February 2008 at the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld near Glasgow**. This interactive day will focus on current/future skills and training issues facing the playwork and Out of School Care sector; career pathways for playworkers and the new SCQF Level 9 Standard in Childhood Practice. The event will give you the opportunity to ask questions and voice your views about recent developments in the sector. We have invited the new Minister for Children and the Early Years, Adam Ingram to be our keynote speaker and there will be input on the day from the Further and Higher Education sector and the SCQF in Scotland.

Full details and booking information to follow shortly!

Review of 'Making Choices'

SkillsActive has recently set up a small working group to review the 'Making Choices' resource in order to identify how this may be adapted for a Scottish audience. It is hoped that this will assist

individuals to choose appropriate careers within the children's workforce in Scotland.

Diary of Events

Saturday 8th September – Nancy Ovens Awards, Evolution Play Park, Stevenson, East Ayrshire

Thursday 11th-12th October – **FIT for Play**, Play Scotland annual conference and AGM, Salutation Hotel, Perth (click [here](#))

Thursday 18th October – **Out2Play** SkillsActive UK conference - Lords Cricket Ground, London (click [here](#))

Tuesday 19th February 2008 – **Professionalising Playwork** SkillsActive conference, Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld – details to follow