

MAY PLAYWORK UPDATE

Number 6 - May 2007

Scottish Executive publishes responses to the National Review of the Early Years and Childcare Workforce

The Scottish Executive has published an analysis of consultation and workshop responses to the National Review of the Early Years and Childcare Workforce.

A total of 115 consultees responded to the main consultation paper, and 210 stakeholders took part in the information gathering workshops. This included early years and childcare managers, childcare providers, childcare workers and local authority representatives.

The key findings emerging from the consultation responses included the need for parity in pay and conditions across the workforce to facilitate access to career pathways, and broad support for the Roles and Responsibilities Framework and the new Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 9 for managers (60%). Respondents felt that there is a need for accessibility and flexibility of learning for practitioners in rural areas, and noted that pay, work patterns, limited job and career progression and poor careers advice all affected recruitment and retention.

SkillsActive sits on the Strategic Steering Group for the Review and the Technical Experts Group, which is developing a Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Level 9 Benchmark for managers within the Early Years and Childcare sector.

For further information and to access the full report click [here](#)

Play moves up the political agenda in Scotland

The recent election manifestos have shown that the value of Play is becoming increasingly recognised at a political level within Scotland. Four of Scotland's political parties mentioned play in their manifestos, with the Liberal Democrats, Scottish National Party and

the Green Party calling for a Scottish Play Strategy. There has also been a commitment to improve play provision for children with the SNP pledging to work in partnership with local authorities and the voluntary sector across the country.

For further information on the outcome of the Scottish elections click [here](#)

Quality Training, Quality Play 2006-2011 – Scottish Implementation Plan Update

SkillsActive and PETC Scotland are now working towards a series of major work streams from the Scottish Implementation Plan for 2007-2008.

The first major area is in relation to the development of the new SCQF Level 9 Benchmark Standard for managers, as outlined above. The second key theme is the development of a Communications Plan for Playwork in Scotland. This Plan will identify the key organisations and individuals with whom we need to communicate, and will identify the type and frequency of this communication. The plan will help to meet the objectives of the Scottish Implementation Plan by communicating the value of Play and Playwork to a wider audience and raising the status of Playwork as a distinct profession.

SkillsActive and PETC Scotland are also considering options for the development of a Playwork Centre in Scotland. Discussions have taken place with the Scottish Social Services Council who manage four Learning Networks across Scotland, which are designed to cover the early years, childcare and Playwork sectors. An initial scoping exercise has taken place to compare the strategic objectives of the Learning Networks with the aims of the Playwork Implementation Plan. This has shown a number of similarities in relation to promoting career progression; access to learning opportunities; the promotion of Continuing Professional Development; and a consistent approach to workforce planning.

SkillsActive briefing

NORTHERN IRELAND SCOTLAND
ENGLAND WALES

SkillsActive are currently investigating opportunities for closer joint working with the Networks. For further information on the Learning Networks go to www.learningnetworks.org.uk.

To access a copy of the Implementation Plan click [here](#)

Review of the Playwork Level 2 NOS

SkillsActive has completed its final consultation to review the Playwork National Occupational Standards (NOS) at Level 2. The purpose of the Review is to update the Standards in line with recent developments in education, training and qualifications and to close the gap between the Level 2 Standard and the revised Level 3 Standard.

The revised standard will be published in June 2007 and will be available in the [National Occupational Standards](#) section of the SkillsActive website

Play Inclusive (P.inc project) moves to Play Scotland

Play Scotland are delighted to announce that the Play Inclusive (P.inc) project has recently moved from The Yard to Play Scotland.

P.inc (2002 to 2007 at The Yard) is an innovative programme of research and development activities on inclusive play. Play Scotland plans to further develop training resources based on this work and develop the project into P.inc and Blew (Building Landscapes Eating Wisely)

The recently launched P.inc handbook 'People play together more' is now available from Play Scotland. For further information on P.inc or the handbook, please contact Play Scotland on 0131 440 9070 or info@playscotland.org

Pay Up for Play Campaign

CYWU/T&G is the only specialist trade union for play workers. They are currently holding a series of seminars campaigning for play workers' pay. Even if you are not a member you can still attend.

They will be holding a seminar in Scotland on 24 July, 290 Bath Street Glasgow G2 4LD. This will commence at 11am and conclude by 4pm. The event will address a recommended pay structure for playworkers and will include national speakers.

Further details are available at www.cywu.org.uk

Diary of Events

Thursday 14th June – Scottish Social Services Council, South East Learning Network, Registration event (G21, Paterson's Land, University of Edinburgh) – contact christy.brewster@ed.ac.uk or on 0131 650 4660

Friday 22nd June – Play Scotland 4th National Play Forum 'What are you playing at?' – Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh

Thursday 11 & 12th October – FIT for Play, Scotland. Play Scotland Annual Conference and AGM, Perth (www.playscotland.org)