

Press Release: Date: 1 April 2005: For Immediate Use.



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

SKILLSACTIVE LAUNCH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STANDARDS FOR EXERCISE REFERRAL & WORKING WITH OLDER ADULTS

Today sees the launch of the Exercise Referral and Working with Older Adults standards for the health and fitness industry.

These two eagerly awaited standards – Design, agree and adapt a physical activity programme with referred patients/clients and Adapt a physical activity programme to the needs of older adults –are the final two additional units which complete the S/NVQ Level 3 in Instructing Physical Activity and Exercise suite.

Final approval came this week from the UK Coordinating Group (UKCQ) on behalf of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).

SkillsActive the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure and Learning, has been working across the health and fitness industry developing the new standards since Jan 2004, and the approval of the standards fit in with the Governments renewed agenda on getting the nation physically active.

The Working with Older Adults unit has been designed to meet international curriculum guidelines for Physical Activity and Older Adults.

Lee Buck, SkillsActive's Qualifications and Standards Officer said:

“The use of the Exercise Referral standard in our sector is excellent news and will continue to support the ongoing implementation on the NQAF (National Quality Assurance Framework for Exercise Referral Systems) which will promote quality delivery and help with professionalising the Fitness Industry.”

Copies of the new standards can be obtained from Lee at:
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-ENDS-

For more information on SkillsActive please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and the Caravan industries.
2. SkillsActive's mission statement is: "To ensure best quality, best business and best value within the Sector to achieve its economic and social potential."
3. SSCs are employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. SSCs provide employers with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sector's skills and business needs. In return they receive substantial public investment and greater dialogue with government departments across the UK.
4. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com
5. SkillsActive is currently developing a Sector Skills Agreement for the Active Leisure and Learning Sector which will define the Sector's skills needs and ultimately form an agreement between employers, Government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years.