

News Release: Date: Monday, 9th October 2006: For immediate use.



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

**HOW CAN THE SKILLS FOR BUSINESS NETWORK BEST SUPPORT
THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR?**

SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Active Leisure and Learning, has lead responsibility on behalf of the Skills for Business network (SfBN) to support the needs of the Voluntary and Community Sector workforce (VCS).

Working closely with the UK Workforce Hub, the SfBN have commissioned Rock Solid Social Research, who have a wealth of research experience in skills development in the voluntary and community sector, to identify the best working arrangements to ensure that the SfBN is best placed to work with VCS employers.

Rock Solid Social Research will look to refresh the memorandum of understanding and recommend a three year plan for the SfBN going forward from April 2007.

SkillsActive are inviting employers, voluntary and paid workers in the voluntary and community sector, training providers and awarding bodies or funders of skills development, to feed into this UK - wide consultation starting October 2006 and ending 25 November 2006.

If you would like to have your say, please see the attached flyer. Your responses will contribute to identifying the best way forward for the SfBN to support skills development in the voluntary and community sector.

For more information on the SfBN project, please visit:
www.ssda-volunteer-workforce.org

For enquiries, please contact Bansari Somani: 020 7632 2019
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-ENDS-

For more information about 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.
6. SkillsActive is *Shaping Skills for the Future*, through...
 - PEOPLE...
...ensuring all people in the sector are appropriately trained and qualified.
 - PRODUCTIVITY...
...ensuring better performance through the professional development of the sector.

 - PROVISION...
...ensuring the sector has accessible, relevant and funded training across the UK.

 - PROMOTION...
...ensuring the contributions of the sector are recognised at a governmental level.