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

SKILLSACTIVE FOCUSES ON 2012 VOLUNTEER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

With London winning the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, SkillsActive calls for an increased focus on volunteer training and development.

SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council for sport and recreation, is working with London 2012 and a number of key partner organisations including the CCPR, Sport England and Volunteer England in developing a volunteers strategy for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

There are currently over 5.8 million volunteers throughout the UK already involved within sport, with this figure set to rise significantly with the ever increasing emphasis on sport and physical activity. Now that London has been awarded the honour of hosting the Games, volunteer numbers, particularly in London, will hit an all time high.

As the Sector Skills Council, SkillsActive will continue to work with other partner organisations including national governing bodies of sport, and sports clubs, to ensure that their volunteers are properly trained and have the skills they need to take part in the greatest sporting event of all time.

SkillsActive's chief executive Stephen Studd said; "It is fantastic news that we have won the bid, especially amidst competition such as Paris and New York.

"The emphasis, from our point of view, must now be on making sure we have the people in place who can deliver on our promises.

"We anticipate an increased demand for a skilled workforce, who need to be competent and qualified whether they are paid or unpaid. At SkillsActive, we are committed to ensuring that these 'frontline' people have the skills they need to do their jobs."

SkillsActive will be working closely with London 2012, Sport England and other partners to deliver a world class volunteer workforce that London and Great Britain can be proud of.

-ENDS-

For more information please contact:

Shelly Beresford
Tel: 020 7632 2033
Email: shelly.beresford@skillsactive.com

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.