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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

## **COLLEGES GET CHANCE TO SHAPE NEW SPORT DIPLOMA**

**The new diploma in sport and leisure will today go out to consultation, giving colleges and universities the chance to shape the content of the diploma and influence its development.**

The new diploma is an integrated programme for 14 –19 year olds, uniquely combining essential skills and knowledge, hands-on experience and employer-based learning, to prepare a young person for work or further study. Sport and leisure is just one of 14 diplomas that are being introduced over the next three years.

Diplomas are part of the biggest reform programme in education for many years and have the potential to impact greatly on the HE sector. With this in mind, SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council for sport and active leisure, is keen to ensure colleges and universities have the chance to input into its development.

SkillsActive's 14-19 reform manager Sue Hook said: "It is vital that we get input from the range of stakeholders the sport and leisure diploma is going to impact. This includes everyone from schools to employers.

"We held a workshop in early July with colleges and universities from around the country which highlighted a number of questions and issues that we need to address going forward. This consultation with colleges and universities is just the first in a number of consultations with our stakeholders to ensure the development of a first class qualification."

To access the consultation, visit: [www.skillsactive.com/sl diploma/questionnaire](http://www.skillsactive.com/sl diploma/questionnaire).

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### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sport and fitness, playwork, the outdoors and caravan industries – known as the active leisure and learning sector.

2. SSCs are UK-wide, employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector. Twenty five SSCs make up the Skills for Business Network. The Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) underpins the network and is responsible for funding, supporting and monitoring the SSCs.
3. SkillsActive's Sector Skills Agreement defines the sector's skills needs and forms an agreement between employers, government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years. Priorities identified as a result of the SSA process are: improve the quality and range of services; improve recruitment and retention; professionalise and upskill the existing workforce; match supply to demand; redirect funding for training; increase sector investment in our people.
4. 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.
5. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ [www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com)