

The Strategic Development of the Voluntary and Community Workforce

September 2005 - Project Information Bulletin 2- Phase 2

New Ambassadors join project

SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Active Leisure and Learning, has been assigned lead responsibility by the Sector Skills Development Agency for the Voluntary and Community Workforce Project within the Skills for Business Network (SfBN) and with other key stakeholders.

The Main aims of the project are:

- To pilot the options available to ensure that the SfBN is fully equipped to play its role in the ongoing development, refinement and implementation of the strategic plan to meet the needs of this workforce within the UK's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Workforce Development Hub, which has been established as a partnership of stakeholders
- To test the options for ensuring that the SfBN provides leadership and influence to Government and other needs by promoting the SfBN as the best place for the partners to secure relevant advice on the Voluntary and Community Sector stakeholders in connection with the voluntary and community workforce

The Project is being delivered through a steering group – membership at present:

SSDA, LANTRA, Skills for Health, Skills for Justice, Go Skills, SkillsActive, NCVO (on behalf of the emerging Workforce Development Hub)

Progress with Phase 2

- As phase two progresses the first SSC Ambassadors have been appointed – representing **Skills for Care Skills for Justice, Skills for Health , SkillsActive and Life Long Learning UK** the first meeting of this new team will take place in October to begin their work – their main roles will be
- Regular meetings with the subgroup and other Ambassadors to:

- share good practice
- explore methods of penetration to increase awareness and promotion of VCS needs and the NOS within SSCs with significant volunteers\VCS employers within their footprints through active participation with SSC Boards or similar.

- Understanding and effectively representing volunteer\VCS priorities for the sector in terms of impact and skills development, especially as part of SSA research.
- Engaging with and influencing employers, colleagues and stakeholders in the use of the new standards;
- Recording and reporting back on issues and concerns with the NOS to inform their future revision and development
- Engaging with and influencing the support of the major voluntary sector funding organisations (e.g. Lloyds TSB, Sainsbury's Family Trust etc) to acknowledge and use the standards and further encourage training of volunteers.
- Promoting representation of the VCS employers from their sector at board level with their SSC

Work on case studies of SSC use of the standards and an evaluation of the impact of the work has also started

A full report from phase one and up to date news on the project can be found at:

www.ssda-volunteer-workforce.org

If you would like more information on this project, please contact Sue Hook at SkillsActive:

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