

17th Day of Xmas : The Voluntary and Community Sector

Once again in 2006, SkillsActive has shown its commitment to the Voluntary and Community Sector workforce.

SkillsActive acknowledges the Voluntary and Community Sector as a major employer in the UK. With a workforce of at least 608,000 paid employees and several million unpaid volunteers. An estimated 1.1 million full time UK workers would be needed to replace the work of unpaid volunteers. For Sport and Recreation in England alone there are 5.8 million volunteers.

Since 2004, SkillsActive has been leading the Voluntary and Community Workforce Project across the network of SSCs. Working closely with the UK Workforce Hub the project is to support SSCs to develop the skills of the voluntary and community workforce. Now in its third year the project is looking to refresh the Memorandum of Understanding to reflect the sector's fast changing policy landscape.

Increasing expectations are being placed upon voluntary and community organisations as providers of public services. Government is demonstrating a growing support for the sector and the role it plays in contributing to the social and economic regeneration of the nation, via the Compact¹, Change Up² and now through the Comprehensive Spending Review of the future role of the Third Sector.

SkillsActive has lobbied for the sector by actively participating in policy consultations such as the Third Sector Review, Russell Commission, and the Future of Volunteering.

¹ The Compact is the agreement between government and the voluntary and community sector in England to improve their relationship for mutual advantage

² Change Up is a framework to strengthening the support and assistance available to voluntary and community organisations.