

The Strategic Development of the Voluntary and Community Workforce

April 2005 - Project Information Bulletin 1 - Phase 2

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 utilise the shared understanding of the voluntary and community sector workforce (paid and unpaid) to thoroughly test the recommendations presented at the end of Phase one by working closely with at least 5 SSCs
- 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 will be 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)

Other SSCs are being invited to join for the start of this new phase.

The objectives of Phase 2:

- Effective and influential involvement of the SfBN in the development and operational activity of the VCS Workforce Development Hub
- Greater sharing of information and good practice between the SfBN and the VCS Workforce Development Hub
- A toolkit of promotional and guidance materials for the SfBN to use in raising the profile and importance of the voluntary and community workforce within the relevant SSCs
- A coordinated and strategic approach for the SfBN to influence key agencies such as the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to support the development of the voluntary and community workforce
- A small number of SSCs promoting the sharing of good practice and able to assist others in the network to take full account of the impact voluntary and community sector paid and unpaid staff make
- A website able to act as the first point of reference for the SfBN

A full report from phase one 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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