

## The Strategic Development of the Voluntary and Community Workforce

### Project Information Bulletin 3 - Phase Two

**APRIL 2006**

**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 across 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 VCS stakeholders in connection with the voluntary and community workforce

The Project is being delivered through a steering group, including members representing:

SSDA, LANTRA, Lifelong Learning UK, Skills for Health, Skills for Care, Skills for Justice, Go Skills, SkillsActive, NCVO (on behalf of the workforce development hub)

Five voluntary and community workforce Ambassadors have now been appointed and meet regularly to share good practice, promote and increase awareness of the VCS across their SSC and networks, and to encourage the use and understanding of National Occupational Standards for VCS sector employers in their footprint.

### PROGRESS WITH PHASE TWO

Phase two of the project ran from April 2005 to March 2006. Key activity in this phase has included:

- Ambassador action plans produced, with clear objectives to achieve greater understanding, and engagement across the UK
- Workshops and promotional events held across all regions and nations, to increase awareness and promotion of VCS needs and the NOS
- Joint SSC events have proved a successful delivery model
- Ongoing feedback loop created between the VCS, via the Ambassadors, to the Workforce Development Hub
- Three case studies have been developed with Skills for Justice, Skills for Care and SkillsActive, highlighting good practice and engagement with regards to NOS development and delivery
- Phase two project report completed

A website for the project was created in the early stages of the project to ensure all partners were up to date with emerging research and latest documents. Visits to the site have steadily grown, and further development of the website is recommended to make sure that the SSC network and wider partners are kept fully informed of progress and initiatives.

#### More Information

Further details and up to date news can be found at:  
[www.ssda-volunteer-workforce.org](http://www.ssda-volunteer-workforce.org)

If you would like more information on this project, please contact:

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