

The Strategic Development of the Volunteer Workforce

SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for active leisure and learning, has been assigned lead responsibility by the Sector Skills Development Agency for the Volunteer Workforce Project within the Skills for Business Network (SfBN) and with other key stakeholders.

The first stage of this work is progressing well and involves a feasibility study (October 2004-March 2005) examining, in particular:

- A shared understanding of “volunteering” and its impact on different sectors
- The most effective mechanism for the SfBN to interface with and contribute to the strategic plan for voluntary sector development across the UK
- The most effective mechanisms for ensuring that emerging Sector Skills Agreements take full account of volunteer skills, skills issues and volunteer management.
- Promotion of the new NOS that relate to volunteering within the SfBN

SkillsActive and its researchers (Playlines) have been contacting SSCs and other sector bodies to gather views on these key issues. Contact has also been established with voluntary sector organisations across the UK. Progress to date includes:

- Telephone interviews with SSCs, other sector bodies and key partners have begun
- A steering group has been established and two meetings held – SSCs on the steering group are Lantra, Skills for Health, Skills for Justice, Go Skills and SkillsActive
- A web site for the project has been developed – www.ssda-volunteer-workforce.org
- Research has begun with employers and FE and HE establishments regarding the use of NOS in training and qualifications
- Seminar organised for all interested parties 26 January 2005

The project is due to report in late March/early April 2005.

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

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020 7632 2000 or Playlines re the research on 01392 385382



SkillsActive