

October 2004

Project Information Bulletin

The Strategic Development of the Volunteer Workforce

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) is a key part of Government social and economic policy and it is almost unique. Although employers in the sector share a number of common features, such as the sector's ethos and the utilisation of some common skills they also reflect a wide diversity in their core business.

In the autumn of 2003, the Voluntary Sector NTO secured approval for new sets of National Occupational Standards (NOS) covering the management of volunteers, and also fundraising; whilst work is in progress to produce NOS for trustees and management.

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.

During the project, SkillsActive and its researchers will be contacting SSCs and other sector bodies to gather views on these key issues. 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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The first stage of this work 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
- Working with a steering group of SSCs including – Lantra, Skills for Health, Skills for Justice, Go Skills and SkillsActive



SkillsActive