

Press Release: Date: 6 March 2008: For immediate use.



*****EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY PROJECT REACHES SECOND PHASE*****

Skills for Justice in partnership with SkillsActive are working on behalf of the Skills for business network to address equality and diversity.

The Equality and Diversity Cross Sector project aims to give employers information, advice and a practical toolkit to help address sector issues on equality and diversity. Following completion of the initial research phase which was based on the issues and solutions identified in the Sector Skills Agreements, the project has now entered its second phase.

The project is coordinated by a steering group made of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) representatives and funded by the Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA). Consultants Teresa Lavery, TLWorks and Marion Lacey from Rock Solid Social Research have been appointed to help deliver the second and third phases of the project.

Building on the research, the second phase of the project seeks to develop a model strategy for equality and diversity for employers and for SSCs using case studies from employers who have implemented policies, programmes or initiatives to address diversity within their organisations and companies. The third and final phase of the project will be to develop an on-line toolkit with information and resources for employers and SSCs.

The project will be completed in April 2008 and the new online toolkit will be launched shortly afterwards.

If you would like to know more about the equality and diversity cross-sector project go to www.sfbn-equality-diversity.org.uk

If you would like to input into the development of the model strategies or to provide a link to case studies for inclusion in the on-line toolkit for employers please contact Teresa Lavery of TLWorks at tlworks@yahoo.com or the Project Leaders Simon.leckie@skillsforjustice.com or Bansari.Somani@skillsactive.com by 20 March 2008.

-ENDS-

For more information please contact:

Leonie Wilson

Tel: 020 7632 2024

Email: playwork.comms@skillsactive.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sport and fitness, playwork, the outdoors and caravan industries – known as the active leisure and learning sector.
2. SSCs are UK-wide, employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector. Twenty five SSCs make up the Skills for Business Network. The Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) underpins the network and is responsible for funding, supporting and monitoring the SSCs.
3. SkillsActive’s Sector Skills Agreement defines the sector’s skills needs and forms an agreement between employers, government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years. Priorities identified as a result of the SSA process are: improve the quality and range of services; improve recruitment and retention; professionalise and upskill the existing workforce; match supply to demand; redirect funding for training; increase sector investment in our people.
4. SkillsActive is *Shaping Skills for the Future*, through...
 - PEOPLE...
...ensuring all people in the sector are appropriately trained and qualified.
 - PRODUCTIVITY...
...ensuring better performance through the professional development of the sector.
 - PROVISION...
...ensuring the sector has accessible, relevant and funded training across the UK.
 - PROMOTION...
...ensuring the contributions of the sector are recognised at a governmental level.
5. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com