



Skills for Work UPDATE

Equipping young people with the skills
they need for tomorrow's workforce

Issue 1
May 2006

HELLO... ...AND WELCOME

to the first edition of what will be a regular Update Newsletter for everyone participating in the Skills for Work pilot.

We hope you find the Newsletter helpful and informative. Our plan is to use it to:

- let you know about developments
- remind you about important dates
- exchange ideas ... and
- highlight good practice



Alison Mitchell and Donald Paterson
Project Managers, supporting SFW implementation

Time flies when...

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the first year of Phase 1 of the pilot. Nearly 350 candidates are aiming to complete their SFW Course this summer.

Do you have candidates completing soon?

If 'yes' ... please ensure that **all** their **Course** and **Unit entries** and **Unit results** have been submitted to SQA.

If in doubt ... please **check!**

We need this data as soon as possible to ensure **all** successful candidates have their Skills for Work achievement recognised on their certificates in August.

Where we think this important information is incomplete or inaccurate, colleagues in our **Data Management** section will be contacting centres over the next few weeks.

New Courses...

Phase 2 Courses launched

Over 200 'deliverers' attended the three Phase 2 launch events held recently in Glasgow and Stirling.



The new Courses:

- Construction Crafts — Intermediate 2
- Sport and Recreation — Intermediate 2
- Hairdressing — Intermediate 1
- Rural Skills — Intermediate 1
- Practical Experiences: Construction and Engineering — Access 3

Feedback from all the events has been **very positive**. Delegates welcomed the opportunity to discuss these new SFW Courses with their development teams.

Hairdressers enjoyed a workshop supporting the Creativity Unit in their new SFW Course



If you are going to be delivering any of these new Courses next session — and you didn't manage to attend a launch event ... don't worry. Final version Course and Unit specifications and NAB packs will be delivered to your centre soon.

SFEU are confident that their **support materials** for all Units in the new Courses will be available to you before August 2006.

First things first...

Approval

If your centre has just joined the pilot or you are delivering SFW Course(s) for the first time — you will need to make sure you have specific award approval before you start delivery!

Normal SQA approval processes apply during the pilot.

Application forms you may require are available to download from the approval section of the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk/approval).

For further information about SFW approval please contact **Karen Watson** on

Tel: **0845 213 5364**

e-mail: karen.watson@sqa.org.uk

Is your centre new to the SFW pilot?

Your SQA **Quality Assurance Manager (QAM)** will be in contact with you shortly to arrange a visit.

The visit will give you an opportunity to discuss **partnership arrangements** and the other systems and procedures you will need in place to support your Skills for Work candidates.

Remember, you can contact your **QAM** at any time for advice and guidance on best practice in arranging, and managing, your SFW partnerships.

Please contact **Christine Howieson** in the first instance on Tel: **0845 213 5342**



Revision time...

No ... we're not talking about exam leave!

Comments and feedback following your DO and Moderator (Verifier) visits, HMLE visits ... and from yourselves, have provided us with a wealth of information that will help us review the Phase 1 Courses.

We are very pleased to say that overall, feedback to date has been **very positive** ... candidates are **enjoying** their Courses. **Well done** to all of you!

The revision of Phase 1 Courses will begin this autumn — in time for their full 'roll-out' next spring. We would welcome any additional **specific comments** on **Unit specifications**, and **NAB** packs. This is your chance to help make a good product **even better!**

Keep sending us your comments.

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Thank you!

Have you thought about...

A SFW open evening

Early Education and Childcare (Int 2) candidates from St Georges School for Girls in Edinburgh have recently completed their SFW Course.

The girls were keen to share their positive experiences of SFW with their own parents, other prospective pupils (and their parents) and other members of staff.

The entire event — planned, prepared and presented by the girls themselves — included photographs, PowerPoint presentations and individual talks by the girls explaining the various aspects of their Course.

All attending were impressed by the enthusiastic team of confident, articulate young people ... **Employability Skills in action!**

The St Georges team with friends from their 'link school' Wester Hailes Education Centre



Watch this space...

All candidates completing their SFW Courses this summer have been surveyed about their SFW experience.

We are all keen to learn from their valuable feedback.

We'll share the findings from the questionnaire with you in the next SFW Newsletter.