



Skills for Work UPDATE

Equipping young people with the skills
they need for the world of work

Issue 3
Jan 2007

Happy New Year!

...and welcome back to what is already
shaping up to be a busy...and exciting year
in the pilot.

Many thanks to all of you for completing the pilot
information forms we sent out towards the end of last
year. We now know that there are 5000 learners
working towards achievement of the 10 pilot Skills for
Work Courses being delivered in 70 centres
....working in partnership with 255 schoolsin 31
Local Authorities across Scotland.

**Best wishes to all of you for (another)
successful year!**



Donald Paterson Project Manager

Jonathan Gillies Project Officer

Iain Blair Administrator

New Year
Resolutions!

~~Read operational guide~~

~~Get approved~~

~~Read operational guide again~~

Enter candidates by 31st Jan

If your candidates are completing their Skills for Work
Course this summer, and expecting certification in
August 2007, it is essential that their **Course code**,
and an entry for at least **1** of their **Units**, is submitted
to SQA by **31st January 2007**.

You'll find full information on submitting entries and
results in the *Operational Guidance for all Skills for
Work Pilot centres in session 06/07* (August 2006)
...available on the Skills for Work pages of SQA's
website.

www.sqa.org.uk/SkillsforWork

Beyond the pilot

Following the successful implementation of pilot Courses, we will be making thirteen Skills for Work Courses available to **all** centres for delivery in 2007/8 onwards, **subject to SQA's normal approval processes**.

In June 2006, SQA issued a letter headed Update on National Course Developments which gave details of our plans for Skills for Work Courses. A copy of this letter can be accessed on the NQ section of SQA's website. www.sqa.org.uk

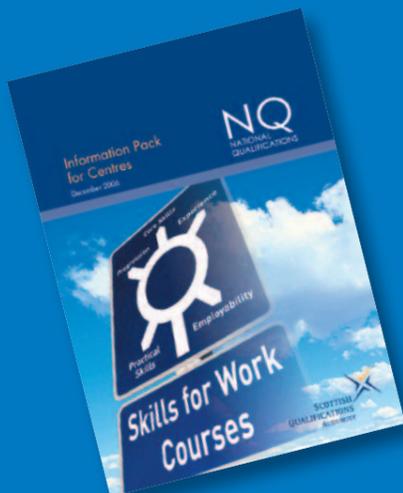
We issued Information Packs about these Courses to **all centres** in December.

The Information Packs were sent directly to SQA Co-ordinators and included important transition guidance for those centres which have participated in the pilot, as well as detailed information on each of the thirteen Courses - which will be useful for curriculum planning processes.

SQA Co-ordinators were asked to distribute the information to relevant members of staff in each centre.

The information is also available for download from the Skills for Work pages of SQA's website.

www.sqa.org.uk/SkillsforWork



SFEU

Support Materials Update

SFEU has arranged for additional copies of support materials to be made available to centres. Costs vary according to the number and size of packs required and centres should contact the printers direct for a quotation and to place an order:

Donna Anderson
Elanders Hindson
Tel: 0191 280 0400
donna.anderson@elandershindson.co.uk

At present this arrangement applies to Phase 2 materials only. Phase 1 materials are presently undergoing review and may be available as class sets by June 2007.

SFEU Events

SFEU is continuing its 'Get Skilled Up' support events in 2007...

- 7th February
- 14th March - (specifically for working with Access 3 candidates)

Full programme details can be found on the SFEU website:

www.sfeu.ac.uk/events

These practical and participative events are aimed at college staff delivering Skills for Work Courses and focus on approaches to learning and teaching with under 16s with specific reference to practical experiential learning and promoting employability skills as part of the learning and teaching process.

SfW candidates are 'banking' on keeping fit!

West Lothian College's Beauty and Fitness Sector, The Image, are for the first time this session offering the Intermediate 1 Sport and Recreation Skills for Work Course.

The programme is for secondary students and is designed to equip them with the basic skills needed in the workplace. In addition to learning basic fitness knowledge and first aid, the programme also develops customer care skills culminating in a placement in a 'realistic workplace environment'.

In order to let the group see what they could aspire to, a visit was arranged to the new RBS headquarters at Gogarburn.

On site there is a 'state of the art' health and fitness centre and the tour included the extensive facilities only available to RBS employees.

After the inevitable question 'Where's the money kept?' The group asked lots of relevant questions about the operation of the facility and qualifications needed to become a member of staff.

So impressed were the students that several have already expressed an interest in doing their S4 work placement at the centre!



Skills for Work information on the SQA and SFEU websites can also be accessed from the **National Qualifications Online** section of the LTS website.

This includes support materials which have been developed by



These materials can be downloaded free from the NQ e-library of resources.

Further information on Case Studies will appear on the LTS website early in 2007.

Find out more at: www.LTScotland.org.uk



Looking back...

SQA's *A Review of the First Year of the Pilot* was published in December 2006.

Copies of the report were sent to all Local Authorities, and all SQA centres delivering National Qualifications.

Check with your SQA Co-ordinator if you haven't seen a copy.

The report includes...

- a background to the introduction of Skills for Work Courses
- statistical information on phase 1 of the pilot
- positive feedback from a range of stakeholders - including learners
- comment on the practicalities of delivering Skills for Work Courses

...and overall, highlights the successful implementation of these new Courses to date.



The report can be downloaded from the Skills for Work pages of SQA's website.

www.sqa.org.uk/SkillsforWork

Looking forward...

The 5 x phase 1 and 5 x phase 2 pilot Skills for Work Courses will be made available for mainstream use, subject to SQA's normal approval processes, from 2007/8 onwards.

The 5 phase 1 Courses have been reviewed, and where revisions have been made, these were highlighted in the Information Pack sent to all centres delivering National Qualifications, in December 2006. The Information Pack is also available on the Skills for Work pages of SQA's website.

www.sqa.org.uk/SkillsforWork

Information Events to support pilot centres with the 'roll-out' of these Courses are being organised. The events will give information on the transition from pilot status to 'mainstream' for these Courses. Details on these events will be issued to pilot centres and Local Authorities soon.

In addition to the 10 pilot Courses, 3 new Skills for Work Courses will be launched in **April 2007**

- Engineering Skills – Intermediate 1
- Hospitality – Intermediate 1
- Health and Social Care – Higher

Individual **Launch Events** for each of the three new Courses are being organised for centres hoping to deliver these Courses. Detailed information and invitations will be issued soon.