



Skills for Work UPDATE

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

Issue 5
Oct 2007

Hello!

... and a warm **Welcome** to all of you new to Skills for Work ... and a special **welcome back** to all our 'pilot colleagues'.

Following the successful national 'roll-out' of the **10 pilot Courses** and **3 new Courses** in the spring, this issue of the Skills for Work Newsletter is being distributed to **all centres** ... not just those involved in the pilot.

Over the coming months, there will be opportunities for us to **all** share, and perhaps learn from, the experience gained by our pilot centres over the past 2 years.

See the article on **Support Networks** later in this newsletter.

Also in this newsletter ...

- an important reminder about **approval**
- the results of our **2007 candidate survey**
- August 2007 **Certification** statistics
- the **HMIe** pilot evaluation report
- information on **SFEU** events

Donald Paterson

Project Manager



Candidates and staff from Childrens Services Training and Assessment Centre, Early Education and Childcare

Reminders

~~Checkout SFW webpages~~
Check my SFW approval status ... **NOW!**

It is the start of the **new** session ... There are **new SFW Courses on offer** ... **New centres** starting Skills for Work for the first time ... and **existing centres** offering **additional SFW Courses**.

It's very important to **check** that you have **approval** from SQA to deliver your Skills for Work Courses ... **before you start!**

WHY? ...

- If we don't know you are running a Course, **we can't support you** ... and your candidates
- We won't be able to give you the **confidence** that you have everything in place to successfully deliver the Course
- Your Course and Unit **entries will be rejected** by SQA ... and you won't be able to send us your **results**
- You may miss out on invitations to the new Skills for Work **Support Networks**

For information about **approval** visit the SQA website www.sqa.org.uk/approval

For **help** and **support** with the approval process call our **Customer Contact Centre** on **0845 279 1000** or **e-mail: customer@sqa.org.uk**

Congratulations!

1167 candidates successfully completed their Skills for Work Courses this summer ...

Many centres took the opportunity to **celebrate** this success with parents, friends and delivery partners.

A number of the end of term Skills for Work ceremonies and events were organised by the candidates themselves.

Employability skills in action!

Check out our WebPages to share in these celebrations ...

www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork

On Tuesday 11th August, a small number of **Skills for Work** candidates - who had just received their certificates that morning - were invited to have lunch with our Chief Executive – Janet Brown and Depute Director, Gill Stewart.



Janet and Gill spent some time chatting with them about their results and what they hoped to do in the future.

Well done to all our successful candidates!

We wish you well for the future ... whether that's continuing in education and training ... or taking your first steps into the world of work. **Good luck!**

2007 candidate survey ...

615 questionnaires have been returned by candidates who were due to complete their Skills for Work Course this summer.

The results are very encouraging ... (the 2006 figures are shown in brackets)

- **97.1%** (97.8%) of candidates enjoyed their Skills for Work Courses
- **98.2%** (98.2%) agreed they had learned about working with others
- **96.1%** (94.7%) acknowledged they had learned about what happens in the workplace
- **95.3%** (92.9%) learned to review their own work
- **96.4%** (94.7%) learned about the skills and attitudes employers want

Skills for Work Courses are **clearly continuing** to meet a range of needs. It's heartening to see that at the same time ... the Courses are being **enjoyed** by so many young people!

A **big thank you** to all of you who've been involved in delivering pilot Skills for Work Courses.

We know from the **many comments** submitted by candidates, that their **deliverers** play a crucial part in making their **Skills for Work experience** such a **worthwhile** and **enjoyable** experience!

You can see the **full results** of the survey on our WebPages ...

www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork

"I really enjoyed this course and found it very exciting. I feel it has given me skills that will help me throughout life."

Early Education and Childcare candidate

New Support Networks for all Skills for Work Courses ...

Starting in the autumn, we will be organising a series of **Support Networks** for **all** centres delivering, **or thinking about delivering**, Skills for Work Courses.

These events will encourage the sharing of ...

- valuable **pilot experience**
- ideas about **delivery models**
- interpretation of **standards**
- good practice in **internal verification**
- understanding of evidence requirements for **External Verification**

During the current session, there will be **no charge** for attending these events.

We hope you'll take up these great opportunities to **network** with colleagues in other centres who are delivering the same Course as you.

Dates and **venues** for each of the Support Networks will be posted on our SfW WebPages – along with **contact details** for booking your place.

Don't delay! ... check the site today!

www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork



Candidates from Banff and Buchan College, Hairdressing



School/College Collaboration Project

Over the coming months, we will be working with colleagues at Careers Scotland, to promote collaborative delivery of Skills for Work Courses, and support Skills for Work candidates and their parents/carers to better understand, and make best use of, their Skills for Work experiences.

For more information contact the project manager at Careers Scotland –

katy.gordon@careers-scotland.org.uk





HMLe's evaluation report on the Skills for Work pilot – **Preparing for Work** - was launched at the Scottish Government/HMLe **Good Practice Conference** held at the Marriot Hotel in Edinburgh on 7 September.

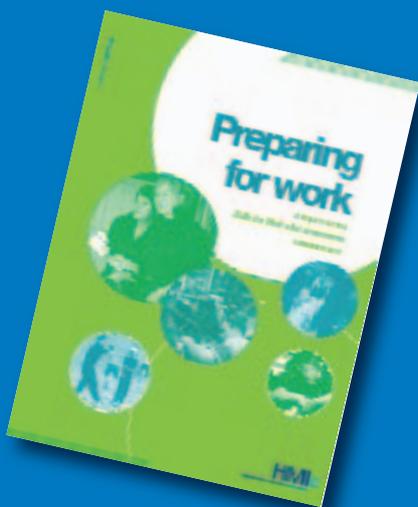
The conference was very well attended, with delegates treated to presentations by a number of Skills for Work candidates as well as the key note address from the Minister for Schools and Skills – Maureen Watt MSP. A range of 'good practice' workshops were also on offer.

The HMLe report highlights many **strengths** and **positive features** noted by HMLe in the **management** and **delivery** of Skills for Work Courses by pilot centres - and exemplifies a wide range of **good practice**.

The report also provides helpful **signposts to improvement**, recognising that there are still several challenges for those involved in the successful delivery of Skills for Work Courses.

A useful appendix to the report includes suggested **quality indicators** for Skills for Work Courses that compliment the quality indicators within **How Good is Our School?**.

The HMLe report is available on their website www.hmie.gov.uk



Support Materials

New Course and Unit Support Materials for Hospitality, Engineering Skills and Health and Social Care are all available on the Skills for Work section of the SFEU website: www.sfeu.ac.uk

These are freely downloadable and centres wishing to obtain multiple copies can order these direct from the printers by contacting Elanders Hindson on 0191 280 0400 or by e-mail: info@elandershindson.co.uk

Events

SFEU is continuing to offer the successful Get Skilled Up events for lecturers in Scotland's Colleges.

Get Skilled Up 1 - for those who are new to Skills for Work this year - will be held at SFEU on a choice of either Tuesday 9 October or Wednesday 14 November.

For those old hands who have delivered the courses over the past two years of the pilot **Get Skilled Up 2** will use your experience to date to enhance your practice in working on these skills based courses.

Join us for GSU2 on either Friday 16 November or Wednesday 12 December.

To register online for any of these events, visit the SFEU website at www.sfeu.ac.uk



Candidates from Edinburgh's Telford College, Construction Crafts



Customer Contact Centre

T: 0845 279 1000 E: customer@sqa.org.uk W: www.sqa.org.uk
October 2007