

Subject: Skills for Life Support for World Class Skills and Train to Gain

Unique opportunity for support for selected providers Skills for Life support for World Class Skills and Train to Gain

Apply by 22 December 2008

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) is harnessing the resources of both the World Class Skills Support Programme and the Skills for Life Improvement Programme* to offer a unique opportunity to around 50 Train to Gain providers. The focus of this specialist support will address issues relating to Skills for Life delivery within Train to Gain programmes that were raised in the recently published Ofsted report, *The Impact of Train to Gain on skills in employment (Ofsted 2008)*.

This is your opportunity to apply for a package of funded support to further develop aspects of embedding literacy, language and numeracy skills within your employer responsive provision.

What support for your organisation involves

A specialist Development Adviser with a track record in working with Train to Gain providers will work with you between January and March 2009. You will be offered two consultancy visits and two continuing professional development (CPD) events for your staff. In addition, you can apply for support in auditing and planning for your staff's professional development in Skills for Life.

Your Development Adviser will support you and your colleagues to analyse your current programme using an audit and planning tool aimed at supporting and improving the effective management of the delivery of Skills for Life. Together you will prioritise key areas for development, and draw up and begin to implement a plan for addressing these. The CPD events will be directly linked to these key priorities for development and customised to the context of your organisation's needs.

The approach taken will be flexible. Priorities you may identify could include:

- Strategies for promoting Skills for Life training to employers
- Developing robust systems for tracking, measuring and recording Skills for Life achievements against targets
- Using initial assessment outcomes to inform and plan learning
- Developing teaching and learning approaches and resources for improved Skills for Life delivery
- Identifying the Skills for Life professional development needs of your Train to Gain workforce.

There is compelling evidence of the benefits of addressing learners' literacy, language and numeracy skills development and the impact this can have on overall learner retention and achievement. Improvements here can have a real impact on achieving your LSC targets for qualification starts and achievement.

Feedback and evidence of measurable improvement among providers involved in the Skills for Life Improvement Programme also confirm that where the necessary changes are addressed at strategic and operational levels across the organisation through a whole organisation approach (WOA), improvements are more successful and sustainable.

Of all providers involved in the Skills for Life Improvement Programme in 2007-2008,

- 93% reported substantial impact on their management and quality improvement systems
- 85% reported substantial positive impact on teaching and learning in vocational areas as well as in Skills for Life
- Over 50% of providers involved in the Skills for Life Improvement Programme reported some improvement in achievement rates. Of these 85% reported that there had been a significant effect on achievement.

'We had our first Ofsted report published this week and are pleased to be able to say a big thank you to the Skills for Life team who have supported us on the programme. The work we have done with them was reflected in the grades we received and the written report. We know we have a lot more work to do to progress further with our Skills for life programme, but work we have done has been recognised. We achieved a grade 1 for capacity to improve and leadership and management. Overall we got a 2'.

Baldwin Training Centre – East Sussex

How to apply for this support

This unique offer of support will commence in January 2009. If you would like to take advantage of this offer of support, please complete the attached application form and it to return by email to sflwcs@cfbt.com by **22 December 2008**.

* The Skills for Life Improvement Programme is delivered on behalf of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service by CFBT Education Trust and partners.

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