

SKILLS for JUSTICE

Developing skills for safer communities

POLICING & LAW ENFORCEMENT E-BULLETIN

Issue 49 – February 2011



Welcome to the **Skills for Justice** e-bulletin for Policing and Law Enforcement.

This email update contains all the latest information about our work in the Policing and Law Enforcement sector.

This e-bulletin is distributed every two months. The next issue will be a special edition dedicated to the launch of the new Policing Professional Framework and will be sent this month. If you have any suggestions for improvements, or ideas for features, please contact Ally Mogg by email at ally.mogg@skillsforjustice.com

The new Policing Professional Framework

This month, the Integrated Competency Framework (ICF) will be replaced by the new **Policing Professional Framework**. After 18 months of development and national stakeholder consultation, the new Framework has now been signed off as complete by the Project Steering Group.

The new Framework contains Rank and Role Profiles for Police Officers and Staff, based on National Occupational Standards (NOS) and Personal Qualities (replacing the current Behavioural Framework). There is also an easy to use NOS search facility.

Implementation Workshops will be available for Force HR teams during February & March 2011. If you are interested in either hosting or attending a Workshop please contact us at ppf@skillsforjustice.com.

This month, we will be distributing a special edition of this e-bulletin, dedicated to informing you about the new Policing Professional Framework. This special e-bulletin will contain lots of useful information on the new system and its excellent new features that have been designed to save you time.

For more information please contact us at ppf@skillsforjustice.com.

The new Growth and Innovation Fund - get involved

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) in England is shortly to announce the new £50m Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF) to support skills development across all sectors. Building on the success of previous programmes in England such as Train to Gain we want to work with employers on submitting bids into this new fund.

The GIF was announced in the Government's recent Skills for Sustainable Growth strategy and we are already working on potential ideas. Its purpose is to 'overcome obstacles that get in the way of employer-led innovation to raise skills in sectors'.

Priorities which may be highlighted through the GIF are

- increasing productivity and employment as a result of an internationally competitive skills base
- increasing numbers of skilled jobs and skilled people at all levels
- increasing the employer and individual investment in training and learning opportunities
- increasing the use of qualifications by employers to quality assure their training
- increasing engagement with colleges and providers

The GIF will soon be formally launched, with bids invited via SSCs by the end of March. The government wants to get employers more involved in the provision of skills and learning, and it is important that we work with our members to get involved in the process where we can.

For more information please contact Fiona Donovan at fiona.donovan@skillsforjustice.com or call 0114 261 5812.

University of Derby Forensic graduates geared up for work

The University of Derby has achieved **Skillsmark® for Forensics** endorsement of their Forensic Science and Forensic Science with Criminology BSc degree courses. This endorsement mark shows that these courses help learners develop the specific skills and knowledge that employers need, producing highly employable graduates.

Skillsmark® for Forensics, part of our [Skillsmark® endorsement scheme](#), rewards courses for the quality of learning on offer, and in particular, for the influence that forensic science practitioners and employers have had in the development and delivery of the course. As Dr Ian Turner, Assistant Subject Head at the University of Derby says

"[Skillsmark for Forensics] shows that our courses not only provide the scientific skills needed in the forensic science sector but also highlights the generic life skills and the employment opportunities students get."

Ian was delighted that the **Skillsmark® for Forensics** review process was different from other accreditation schemes. "The visit day was really worthwhile, it didn't look like the reviewer was trying to dig holes or find a weakness, it looked like she wanted to learn and inform, so it did not feel like we were being assessed in some ways so I enjoyed that," explains Ian.

If you offer Forensic Science learning, **Skillsmark® for Forensics** is the quality mark you need to show learners that your courses deliver the skills they need, and that employers want from their staff.

See the full list of endorsed programmes on our [Skillsmark® e-directory](#). Employers that run their own programmes of learning can also apply to have their programmes endorsed. For more information on Skillsmark®, [take a look at our website](#), call us on 0114 231 7386 or email skillsmark@skillsforjustice.com.

Sustainable Futures event - balancing employer demand and student ambition

We are hosting a **FREE** half day event at De Montfort University in Leicester on 10 March 2011 which looks at addressing the challenges of a sustainable future for adult skills in England. It aims to gather employer and stakeholder views on how we can best work together to meet the challenges ahead.

Key policy developments like the Browne Review and recent consultations on FE put this topic at the forefront of Government policy. They are striving for a flexible and highly skilled workforce and want to place employers and individuals at the heart of the system.

We want to work with employers and learning providers to seek real solutions to delivering high quality, fit for purpose learning that delivers benefit to employers, individuals, learning providers and to society as a whole.

The Sustainable Futures event will enable employers, policy makers and learning providers to share information, ideas and opinions in an open, informal environment. It will address key issues of choice, information, quality and demand. We aim to produce a set of clear actions and messages to be relayed back to Government to inform their plans across the skills system in England.

Speakers at the event will provide insight on challenges, opportunities and innovative approaches being adopted to navigate through the challenging times ahead. We are also looking at hosting similar events specifically for colleagues in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, so watch this space.

To register your interest in attending please contact Colette Wymer at events@skillsforjustice.com or call 0114 231 7370.

Assessment Workshops – dates confirmed

We are running a series of practical and interactive workshops in March 2011 to deliver good practice in vocational training assessment and dates have now been confirmed.

1. The New Assessor and Verifier Qualifications

These practical workshops are aimed at learning and development Managers, trainers, assessors, internal verifiers and other staff with an interest in assessment and quality assurance. This will also benefit those involved with competence based assessment and improving the quality of work-based assessments.

Attendance will help you understand how these qualifications can raise standards in assessment practice and will also help staff get up to speed with the new QCF replacements for the 'A' and 'V' awards. Workshops provide an opportunity to meet with other assessors and verifiers to share ideas and good practice. Delegates attending these workshops in the last few months have rated them as 'excellent', providing 'good practical advice'.

This workshop will be held in Swindon, Wiltshire on Tuesday 15 March and Thursday 31 March at a cost of only **£160** per delegate. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Contact us at events@skillsforjustice.com to book your place.

2. Implementing practical assessment skills - Non-bureaucratic assessment and quality assurance processes

This is a practical workshop aimed at those involved in assessment and internal quality assurance processes, particularly assessors and verifiers. It will show the links between everyday workplace activities and the assessment process, demonstrating how to implement effective and streamlined assessment for your organisation without placing an additional burden on candidates or assessors. Workshops provide an opportunity to meet with other assessors and verifiers to share ideas and practice.

This workshop will be held in Swindon, Wiltshire on Wednesday 23 March at a cost of only **£110** per delegate. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Contact us at events@skillsforjustice.com to book your place.

Both of these workshops can be tailored to meet your organisation's needs and delivered to up to 20 staff on your premises. If your organisation would benefit from this contact us at events@skillsforjustice.com.

Workshops coming soon....

We are offering two new workshops on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) between now and 31 March 2011.

1. **An Introduction to the QCF** – designed to provide individuals working in skills development in the Justice, Community Safety and Legal Services sectors with an introduction to the key concepts and components of the QCF.
2. **QCF Implementation** – designed for the Learning & Development staff within Justice, Community Safety and Legal Services organisations, to provide employers in these sectors with a more in-depth understanding of the options and opportunities created through QCF implementation.

For information on location and cost and to register your interest for these workshops please contact us at events@skillsforjustice.com.

Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for Working with Children and Young People (England)

The Common Core describes the skills and knowledge that everyone who works or volunteers with children and young people is expected to have. It aims to ensure that we are all working in the same way with shared aims and values.

The Common Core is relevant for all those who work full time with young people as well as people who come into contact with them as part of their job such as police community support officers. The Common Core has a range of uses including the development of induction programmes, qualifications, appraisal systems and training programmes.

[Download and read a copy of the Common Core.](#)

We are carrying out a short evaluation to assess how well known the Common Core is and find out how it is used. This online questionnaire takes about 10 minutes to complete. [Take part now.](#) You can complete the questionnaire even if you have not previously heard about the Common Core or aren't currently using it.

The closing date for responses is **Friday 11 February 2011**. All responses will remain confidential but findings will feed into a report to be written by the Children's Workforce Development Council.

For more information please contact Linda Millington at linda.millington@skillsforjustice.com or call 07795 815781.

Restorative Practice workshops - Wales

We are aware that we have not yet had the opportunity to provide further information about the Level 4 Diploma in Restorative Practice and associated National Occupational Standards (NOS) in Wales. With that in mind we are looking to run two workshops in March to give more details about the Diploma and discuss how it can be implemented.

Workshops will be held on

- 9 March 2011, 11.00 - 13.30 in Wrexham (kindly hosted by Wrexham Youth Justice Service)
- 22 March 2011, 10.30 -13.00 in Barry (tbc but kindly hosted by Vale of Glamorgan Youth Offending Service).

Places are limited, so to book your place please contact Linda Millington at linda.millington@skillsforjustice.com or call 07795 815781 by Friday 11 February.

Having trouble reading this e-bulletin? Do you know a colleague who would benefit from receiving this? For all enquiries and to unsubscribe please e-mail Ally Mogg at ally.mogg@skillsforjustice.com with full details of your query including contact details.