

DECEMBER 2006

Sector Skills Agreement (SSA) Update

Planning for the future skills needs of the lifelong learning workforce ...

Sector Skills Agreements (SSAs) are changing the way skills are developed and delivered in the UK. Whatever your understanding so far, this update will provide you with relevant information on what the SSA is, how it is being developed, and our progress to date...

What is a Sector Skills Agreement?

The SSA for the lifelong learning sector will be an agreement between employers, stakeholders, the government, partner organisations and Lifelong Learning to deliver an agreed action plan, which will meet the priority skills needs of the sector workforce, both now and in the future.

How will it happen?

The development of the Lifelong Learning UK SSA consists of 5 stages, though due to unique composition of the lifelong learning sector we are also developing an Impact Review.

Stage 1	Assessment of current and future skill needs within the lifelong learning sector
Stage 2	Understanding the current supply of skills provision
Stage 3	Analysis of the gaps in provision and market testing
Stage 4	Assessment of potential collaborative action by employers
Stage 5	Development of an action plan with employers and stakeholders
Impact Review	Assessing the impact of the other Sector Skills Councils' SSAs on the lifelong learning sector

Why is it being developed?

Our SSA will ensure that the UK's lifelong learning sector has the skilled workforce it needs to increase productivity and improve service delivery. By setting priorities for investing in skills development, it will launch an employer-led system of funding for education and training for the lifelong learning sector.

When will it happen?

Work on our SSA has started – this will be conducted throughout the UK over an 18-month period and will cover the whole lifelong learning sector. The full SSA will be completed in Autumn 2007. A schedule of key dates and activities can be found on the reverse.

David Hunter – Chief Executive of LLUK, said:

“The SSA is a crucial mechanism for employers and stakeholders to collaborate over skills planning for the future. Employer requirements will form the blueprint for training and development over the next 10 years and beyond. Our employer feedback is fundamental to help us understand the skills needs across the sector and is thus vital for shaping the SSA.”

“Our employer feedback is shaping the SSA.”

(David Hunter 2006)

Want to find out more and get involved?

Regular updates can be found at www.lifelonglearninguk.org/ under SSA or contact the SSA team at ssaenquiries@lluk.org

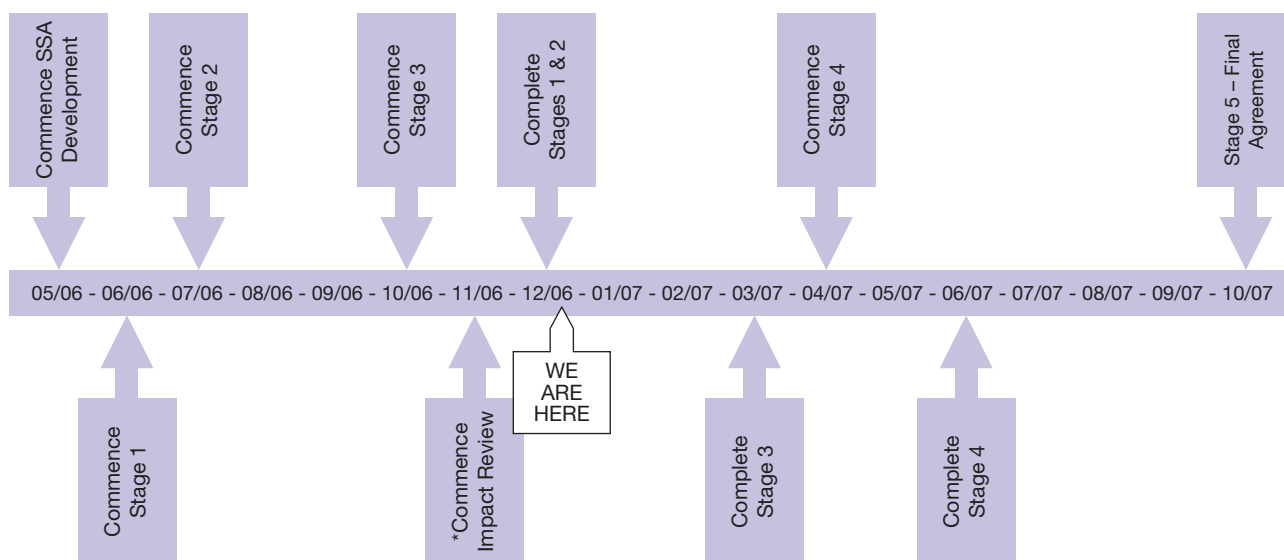
For an overview of our progress please see reverse...

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Estimated timescales



Progress to date

Work on Stages 1 and 2 are due for completion by the end of the year; a report on key findings will be available on the LLUK website www.lifelonglearninguk.org when the final drafts are complete.

Stage 1	Core activities include:
	Review of drivers of demand for skills
	Analysis of labour market characteristics
	Assessment of current and future skills needs
Stage 2	Core activities include:
	Assessment of current provision for the sector workforce
	Assessment of quality of supply of provision

Work has also started on the SSA Stage 3 and the Impact Review.

Next issue

The next issue in March 2007 will provide an update on Stage 3 and Impact Review progress, as well as key findings from Stage 1 & 2. For more information on how you can become involved, please contact the SSA team at ssaenquiries@lluk.org

Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in our employers' survey and the review process.

For an overview of the SSA please see reverse...