



## News from the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils, North West for SSCs, partners and stakeholders

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## Register Now for Licensed to Skill

### 2-3 February 2010, Solihull

Don't forget to register for the first Alliance UK Conference. Day 1 will focus on the sectoral approach to a skilful future and Day 2 will explore the Qualifications & Credit Framework, informing and advising on its progress. Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are available.

> [Click here to find out more](#)



## Alliance Skills Monitor Findings

The results of the first Alliance Skills Monitor indicates an increasing stability in employment levels with 80% of employers expecting their staff numbers to increase or stay the same in the next three months, up by 7% on the previous quarter. The Skills Monitor is a quarterly panel survey of employers, trade associations and membership organisations, identified and engaged by the UK's Sector Skills Councils. The second Skills Monitor will run in January 2010.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## NW Alliance partner and stakeholder survey

Thank you to those partners and stakeholders who responded to the NW Alliance perceptions survey on the impact of the Alliance on the region throughout 2009.

**82% respondents say the Alliance NW has helped them with their work and 83% think it is important for the Alliance to have regionally focussed staff. 88% have worked with the Alliance directly and 76% have a comprehensive understanding of our remit.** Partners and stakeholders also indicated they would go to SSCs and the Alliance before any other source to get sectoral Labour Market Intelligence.

> [For more information please contact the Alliance NW Regional Manager](#)

## SSC Relicensing News

Lord Mandelson, First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has announced that four Sector Skills Councils; Creative & Cultural Skills, Lantra, Proskills UK and Skillsmart Retail have all been relicensed.

Skillfast-UK will not be relicensed as a Sector Skills Council (SSC) in its own right. The UKCES has agreed to continue to licence Skillfast-UK as an SSC to 31st March 2010, whilst alternative arrangements are put in place that ensure that the skill needs of the industry continue to be met.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Skills - Third Sector

Julie Wilkes has started work in the role of Director for Skills-Third Sector. Skills-Third Sector's mission is to make it easier for people who work and volunteer in charities and social enterprises to have the right skills to make a difference to people and their communities.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Skills for Care CEO to retire

Andrea Rowe will retire in 2010 from her role as CEO of the Sector Skills Council responsible for workforce development in adult social care in England.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## North West Regional Strategy 2010

Part One (the high level strategic framework) of the Regional Strategy 2010 is currently being prepared and will be subject to an eight week consultation in January/February 2010. A number of events will also be held across the region to share details of the strategy and encourage debate to help shape the future of the region.



> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Greater Manchester: City Region

A groundbreaking agreement between the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities and Government will be signed on 18 December and will grant Greater Manchester more powers and responsibilities devolved from central government - ensuring the region has much more of a say in its own destiny.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Nuclear Power in the North West

Business Secretary Lord Mandelson and Chancellor Alistair Darling have outlined a package of announcements outlining how the Northwest is helping British businesses seize the opportunities that civil nuclear power represents for the UK economy. The Northwest has been chosen as Low Carbon Area for Nuclear (LCEA), based on the region's unique assets and capabilities within the field of nuclear energy.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Engage to Learn

The Train to Gain Engage website is now live and is the site for employer engagement staff, training providers and other stakeholders and partners.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## UKCES Almanac Online

The UKCES has launched its first Almanac Online, providing skills and employment intelligence.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Simplification: Hiding the Wiring

This report follows on from the interim report published in July 2009 and focusses on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations made in the UKCES's initial report into the simplification of the skills system, published in October 2008.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Review of Employer Collective Measures: Final Report

Last month, the UKCES published the final report in the Collective Measures series which summarises the evidence reviewed and collected through the study and presents advice on the most effective collective policy levers to encourage employer investment in skills.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Conference

25 January 2010, Manchester

Capita's conference will showcase innovative approaches from the North of England and provide key stakeholders with the latest policy and practical guidance for reducing NEET numbers throughout the UK.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Can research lead to real improvements in the learning and skills sector?

26 February 2010, London

This LSIS research conference is being held in partnership with the Institute for Learning (IfL) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). It will explore the strategic and practical issues in conducting and using research for improvement in the learning and skills sector.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Liverpool Business Fair

23 March 2010, Liverpool

The event will feature 70 business exhibitors from a variety of sectors, as well as workshops, ask the expert sessions, business advice and networking. There are opportunities to exhibit sponsor or attend.

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Health, Work and Well-being Co-ordinator

A Health, Work and Well-being Co-ordinator is being recruited in each of the English regions, Scotland and Wales. Their role will be to facilitate an integrated approach to health and employment.

For information about the Co-ordinators, please email: [hwwb.coordinators@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hwwb.coordinators@dpw.gsi.gov.uk) or the North West position, contact Will Blandamer, Director of the Greater Manchester Public Health Network, t:07717 547330 (deadline 24 December).

> [Click here to find out more](#)

## Health, Work and Well-being Fund

A new initiative from Department for Works and Pensions will fund innovative projects that improve employees health and welfare at work. It is a competitive grant scheme, aimed at local partnerships and small and medium size enterprises. Applications can be made for grants between £1000 and £50000 and the closing date for applications in this round is 31 December 2009.

> [Click here to find out more](#)