

# skills for care board meeting - key messages

**17 March 2010**

1. The Skills for Care board met and held a seminar session and board meeting on Wednesday 17 March at the Novotel London Paddington hotel. The board and Seminar was attended by board members, officers and representatives from the Department of Health and Skills for Health.

## **Seminar**

2. The seminar topic was the National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC) and members heard from a range of distinguished speakers from Kings College, the Department of Health, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Care Quality Commission. The speakers highlighted the value of NMDS-SC to social care employers and the sector as a whole and enthusiastically endorsed the use of NMDS-SC for all social care employers.

## **Board**

3. Members welcomed Jacqui Ramus, the new representative of ACTAN to the Board. Members were also advised that Clare Smith had stepped down from the board. Clare would continue to work in an advisory capacity on the Investment Management Sub-committee.
4. Members applauded an inspiring, challenging and thought provoking **scenario planning paper for reduced funding 2011/12 and beyond** which discussed a myriad of future funding challenges and various solutions. Members particularly agreed the direction of travel outlined in the paper, namely the ongoing culture change programme and a number of revenue generating options.
5. Members discussed the independent consultation into effectiveness and market demand of LeaRNS, the information management system developed to support and streamline the process of planning, delivery and reporting of work-based learning for social workers at pre and post qualifying levels. The consultation concluded that **LeaRNS** is a flexible system able to adapt to the changing needs of the sector quickly and easily. The system can respond directly to the recommendations of the Social Work Taskforce report. There is significant market demand for the product and the feedback from the pilot users has been positive. Members were advised to move swiftly to capture the strategic benefit of launching now and supported the further development, implementation and promotion of LeaRNS.

6. Members ratified a previous decision made via electronic vote before the board meeting on the **linking of Training Strategy Implementation funds with NMDS-SC online individual worker records**; making it compulsory for TSI applicants to NMDS-SC on 90% of their workforce in order to be eligible for TSI funding. This position is to be evaluated after one year. The decision was taken in order to encourage employers to complete the individual records providing invaluable snapshots of the social care workforce which has so far benefited Skills for Care, the Department of Health and other key partners to inform them in a variety of projects.
7. The **Business Plan and indicative budget for 2010/2011** was approved by the board. The Business Plan, together with links to additional detailed information will be available on the Skills for Care website for general public access.
8. The Board also agreed the **Corporate Plan for 2010 – 2013** and noted that it may be subject to change following publication of the ‘State of Social Care Workforce’.
9. It was agreed that further investigations would take place into the possibility of working with Care Comm LLP, the company responsible for the organisation of the **Great British Care Awards, to merge these with Skills for Care’s Accolades**. Skills for Care has the opportunity to expand the Accolades to a regional focus and benefit from increased press exposure. Negotiations are ongoing and will be reported back to the board in July.
10. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 July 2010 in Leeds at a venue and time to be confirmed.