



Skills for Learning Professionals

## Minister praises LLUK at Commons launch

The critical role of Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) in raising standards was highlighted by Bill Rammell, the Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education at LLUK's official launch at the House of Commons in June 2005.

Not only would LLUK play a key part in the reform of post-16 teacher training, he said, but it would also help to determine the success of the government's Skills Strategy and Success for All agenda, both of which are designed to boost opportunities for education and training among learners of all ages.

"Lifelong Learning UK has a central role in ensuring the supply of skills to the economy," said Mr Rammell, highlighting the need for the UK to compete effectively internationally. "Giving a strong voice to lifelong learning sector will help us create a truly demand-led system which will enable colleges, universities and other learning providers to offer employers the training they want," he added.

LLUK is one of 25 sector skills councils in the Skills for Business network of employers, which aims to reduce skills shortages and increase opportunities for learning throughout the economy.

Addressing nearly 200 representatives of lifelong learning employers and other organisations, Bill Rammell acknowledged that LLUK is responsible for a large and multi-talented workforce of more than one million people - nearly 4 per cent of the entire UK workforce.

This includes staff in further and higher education, work based learning, community learning and development, and libraries, archives and information services.

"With a strong, diverse workforce, LLUK will have the vision and ideas to help secure the right skills for the economy and close skills gaps in the years ahead," said Mr Rammell.

John Hedger, Chair of LLUK, told the launch that LLUK would raise skills levels among all learning professionals and so support employers across the UK.

"It is right that employers in the lifelong learning sector should have their own voice in the Skills for Business network as they have an important part to play in economic development and social progress," he said.

LLUK Chief executive David Hunter stressed it will meet the needs and priorities of learning providers in each of the four countries of the UK. Further launches will be held in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland later this year.

“We aim to build a coherent climbing frame of core standards and credit based qualifications,” he said. “All of our work must be based on coherent labour market intelligence from which we can map and tackle skills shortages.”



200 guests from stakeholder organisations and partner sector skills councils (SSCs) joined LLUK staff and Council members in the House of Commons. Barry Sheerman MP welcomed everyone to the launch.



John Hedger, Chairman of LLUK, emphasised that the organisation would respond to the needs of employers across the four countries of the UK.



Bill Rammell, the Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, emphasised the importance of the lifelong learning workforce in raising skills levels across the UK economy.



David Hunter, Chief Executive of LLUK, set out the new SSC's ambitious workplan and outlined the significant achievements of the first six months of operations.



Barry Sheerman, MP; Phil Hope, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills; David Hunter, Chief Executive of LUK; Bill Rammell, Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education; and John Hedger, Chairman of LUK.



David Hunter, Chief Executive of LUK; Andrew Thomson, Chief Executive of LSDA; Alan Tuckett, Director of NIACE; Lynne Sedgmore, Chief Executive of the Centre for Excellence in Leadership.