

Agenda Item 15

Enclosure 13

Paper ETC46/02

Education and Training Committee

**" SKILLS FOR HEALTH ", ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
SUCCESSOR TO HEALTHWORK UK, THE FORMER
NATIONAL TRAINING ORGANISATION FOR HEALTH**

From the Secretary

for information

NEWSLETTER

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**skills
for
health**



WHAT IS SKILLS FOR HEALTH?

A brand new body with the task of helping to develop the skills of the 2million people working in the health sector across the UK.

Skills for Health has been formed with the backing of the four UK health departments, the independent health sector, the voluntary sector and staff organisations. We will be based in Bristol under the umbrella of United Bristol Healthcare (NHS) Trust and will have our own Board geared to reflect the whole health sector.

Skills for Health is applying to become recognised as the Sector Skills Council for Health by the Department for Education and Skills. As such we will have will have four key goals:

- Reducing skills gaps and shortages
- Improving productivity, business and public service performance
- Increasing opportunities to boost the skills and productivity of everyone in the sector's workforce, including action on equal opportunities
- Improving learning supply, including apprenticeships, higher education and National Occupational Standards (NOS)

Skills for Health aims to achieve these by:

- Providing the focus for the sector for the development, maintenance and use of competency frameworks, embracing NOS
- Delivering other skills council responsibilities through the wider network and co-ordinating wider activity where this is not already covered
- Working as an effective and businesslike public service body

Our overall aim will be to help the sector to develop skills and competencies for the challenges that lie ahead, especially as the workforce have to become more flexible.

David Highton, Chair of the new body and CEO of Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals said "This is an exciting development for the Health sector as a whole and I am delighted to be a part of it. There has never been a time when rapid change has challenged us all as much as now. We need to help staff take advantage of new opportunities. We also need to work more flexibly if we are to make lasting changes in improving patient care. We can only do these things if we develop frameworks that provide genuine help for people working in this huge and complex area. Skills for Health intends to do this across the UK by working with existing organisations, employers and staff interests."

John Rogers, Director of the new organisation brings wide experience to the job. He has worked in the private and public sectors, concentrating on Health in recent years. He said "I am really looking forward to this new challenge and to providing a real focus for staff development in the future."