

Workforce Partners



North West Health and Social Care Workforce Development Funding Guide

July 2008

Information correct as of July 2008.

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Introduction

This Guide has been prepared by Skills for Health and Skills for Care in the North West. These two organisations are the Sector Skills Councils for the health and social care sector and work closely together in the North West. On page 4 you can find some general information about Sector Skills Councils, and about Skills for Health and Skills for Care in particular.

What is this Guide for?

The aim of the Guide is to:

- Help health and social care employers in the North West understand the range of funding and support available for workforce development

Who is it for?

Anyone can access this information. It is intended to be of particular use to those who have responsibility for workforce development within employing organisations in health and social care.

How should I use this Guide?

The Guide has been written as a quick reference to funding in the North West.

Your current level of understanding about workforce development funding and support will determine how you use this Guide.

Please note : information on funding quickly goes out of date, and it is not possible for us to update this guide. Please ensure that you check websites for the current information. National and regional contact details are provided for each source of funding and support.

About Sector Skills Councils

1st April 2008 saw the launch of the new Alliance of Sector Skills Councils – a collective body made up of all 25 Sector Skills Councils. For more information please visit the Alliance's website - www.sscalliance.org - or call 0845 072 5600.

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) opened for business on 1 April 2008. The UKCES, which was set up as a result of Leitch, operates across the UK and plays a central role in raising the UK's skills base, improving productivity and competitiveness, increasing employment and making a contribution to a fairer society. It will play a critical part in securing for the UK the ambitions of achieving a world class profile on skills by 2020 and the aspiration of an 80% employment rate.

For more information about the UKCES please visit www.ukces.org.uk or call 01709 774800.

Sector Skills Councils working together with partners in the region

Skills for Health

Skills for Health is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the UK health sector - NHS, independent and voluntary employers. Our purpose is to help the whole sector develop solutions that deliver a skilled and flexible UK workforce in order to improve health and healthcare.

Skills for Health's specific aims are to:

- develop and manage national workforce competences
- profile the UK workforce
- improve workforce skills
- influence education and training supply
- work with our partners

Skills for Health (Head Office)

Goldsmith House

Broad Plain

Bristol

BS2 OJP

Tel: 0117 922 1155

Fax: 0117 925 1800

E-mail: office@skillsforhealth.org.uk

Website: www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Skills for Care

Skills for Care is the strategic workforce development body for adult social care. It is an employment-led body and represents the adult social care sector in England as a partner in the Sector Skills Council (SSC) Skills for Care and Development. As part of the SSC, Skills for Care will seek to strengthen the links with other SSCs, employers, education and training providers, people who use services, and carers through national and regional networks. All our work aims to increase the quality of adult social care by improving the competence of the workforce.

The Skills for Care vision is:

- to put employers in the driving seat on social care workforce issues
- to create a trained and qualified workforce providing high quality care
- to provide an expert voice on the social care workforce.

Skills for Care seeks to raise the quality of the social care workforce by ensuring qualifications and standards continually adapt to meet the changing needs of adult social care employers and people who use services. We do this through our five strategic objectives:

- providing information about the social care workforce
- providing support to employers with workforce planning
- enabling employer-led workforce development at national, regional and local

levels

- developing, maintaining and embedding National Occupational Standards and a qualification framework
- maintaining the capacity of Skills for Care to deliver its corporate and business objectives.

Skills for Care administers the Training Strategy Implementation Fund (TSI) to support employers with workforce development (please see page 10). The TSI money is a contribution towards the costs of learning and assessment of specified NVQs and this is managed through employer-led partnerships. An outline of the main funding sources for Skills for Care can be found on the Skills for Care website (details below).

Skills for Care (Head Office)
Albion Court
5 Albion Place
Leeds
LS1 6LJ

0113 245 1716

www.skillsforcare.org.uk

North West contact
Skills for Care North West
Farington House
Lancashire Business Park
Centurion Way
Leyland
PR26 6TW
Tel: 01772 459401
www.skillsforcarenw.org.uk

Children's Workforce Development Council

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) aims to improve the lives of children, young people, their families and carers.

CWDC do this by ensuring that those who work with children and young people have the best possible training, qualifications and support. They also help organisations work together more closely so that children and young people are at the heart of what they do.

The organisation works in the interests of a range of sectors covering about 500,000 workers, including early years and childcare, education welfare and social care for children and young people. We are one of five bodies forming the UK [Skills For Care and Development](#) Sector Skills Council and we coordinate the Children's Workforce Network.

CWDC

2nd Floor

City Exchange

11 Albion Street

LEEDS

LS1 5ES

Phone: 0113 244 6311

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

Workforce Development Support and Funding Overview

There is a range of sources of workforce development support and funding available to organisations, and sometimes directly to individuals.

These resources are accessed via different routes in both the public and private sector. As funding, or support, is made available for specific aims it is important to understand these aims and whether your organisation, or any individual, would be eligible. Please also note that the focus of support or funding provided may change from time to time in line with Government priorities.

Once you have established the funding or workforce development support which may be available to your organisation you will need to make an application to access this support or funding. The detail required for applications varies, as do timescales, for bids. Like any other resource, funding is limited and to create maximum chance of being successful it is important to provide what is asked for.

Support, funding and making bids is an extensive area of knowledge. Information and specialists (with titles such as Skills Brokers and Training Advisors) are there to help others understand and work through processes. As well as understanding what may be required of you as an organisation it is important that the impact on the ultimate beneficiary of the workforce development support or funding, and any partner organisations you may work with, is clarified.

Often making bids involves showing that you are working in partnership. You may find that providers in your area already have partnerships which can make bids on behalf of its members. If you want to find out about local partnerships you can contact Skills for Care, or any local council's social care workforce development team.

Key Sources of Workforce Development Support and Funding

Invest in Health

A groundbreaking Joint Investment Framework (JIF) was agreed between Strategic Health Authorities, the Learning and Skills Council and Skills for Health in July 2007. The Joint Investment Framework will see up to £100m of extra funds being injected annually into the health service in England to tackle skills gaps and shortages over a period of three years. This investment and commitment for partnership working for health sector workforce development will help to fund Apprenticeships, Skills for Life and other skills development and qualifications at levels 2, 3 and 4 and the Agenda for Change Bands 1 to 4.

The NHS Academy NW manages Invest in Health. For more information contact:

Invest in Health Help Line 0845 270 4525 www.investinhealth.org.uk

NHS Academy North West 0151 482 5678 www.nhsacademy.nhs.uk

NHS North West

As the Strategic Health Authority for the North West of England, NHS North West is committed to planning and supporting the development of the whole healthcare workforce to meet the needs of the health economy in the region.

The mission of the NHS in the North West, through this Strategic Health Authority, is to maintain and improve the health of the North West population and ensure the delivery of world class services for those who need care. This is a complex area with many priorities to work with. NHS North West has a strategic responsibility for workforce development to ensure that there is the right number of staff, where they are needed and with the skills to deliver a range of care and services.

NHS North West commissions:

- undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental training
- pre-registration professional training for nurses, midwives, Allied Health Professionals, Healthcare Scientists, Clinical Psychologists and Pharmacists
- workforce modernisation programmes e.g. Assistant Practitioners, Advanced Practitioners

- professional development programmes for qualified clinical staff across the North West through contracts with Universities and Service Level Agreements with trusts.

To find out more visit www.northwest.nhs.uk, call 0845 0500194 or contact the Education Management Team on education.management@northwest.nhs.uk.

Local Area Workforce Grants

Local authorities receive a local area workforce grant for both adults and children's social care. The spending of this grant is agreed through Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). All local authorities in the North West have an employer-led partnership which will be working with the LSP on how this grant is spent in relation to the social care workforce. If you wish to find out how this grant is used in your area, please contact your local council's social care workforce development team.

Training Strategy Implementation Fund

Skills for Care administers the Training Strategy Implementation (TSI) Fund on behalf of the Department of Health. Skills for Care channel TSI to employers, including people who directly employ their own staff, via locally-based employer-led partnerships. TSI funding is a contribution to the cost of the achievement of relevant NVQ units or completion of induction training. This supports employers to meet the National Minimum Standards in adult social care. For more information and contact details of employer-led partnerships visit www.skillsforcarenw.org.uk or call 01772 459401.

From 1 April 2008, CWDC are responsible for the element of the fund which is for the children's social care workforce and they are in the process of working out how to make this funding available for application.

Details of the process will therefore be posted on the CWDC website as soon as they are available www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is a Government funded organisation which exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. The LSC national vision is that *'by 2010 young people and adults in England will have knowledge and skills*

matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce’.

The LSC are responsible for planning and funding high quality education and training for everyone in England other than those in universities. The LSC operates through regional, and sub regional local offices. In the North West the Regional LSC develops strategies based on the Regional Economic Strategy and all funding is guided by these strategies which are linked to national strategies and priorities. The main employer facing offer of support from the LSC is Train to Gain (see page 14). Visit www.traintogain.gov.uk/In+your+Region/North+West for more information.

The LSC, via the European Social Fund, can support specific projects and contracts with provider organisations to deliver training and education to employees and those outside the workplace (learners) via these providers. It does not provide funding directly to employers but works through its provider base and Co-financing arrangements (see page 15) which enable programmes such as SkillWorks (see page 13) to be developed.

Contact Details:

www.lsc.gov.uk There is a link to the North West region web page.

LSC North West

9th Floor, Arndale House

Arndale Centre

Manchester

M4 3AQ

Tel: 0845 019 4142

Email: Grmanchesterinfo@lsc.gov.uk

Ambition: Health

This is a partnership programme in Merseyside where people are trained (before and during employment) for a variety of vacancies in the health sector. It is funded by the LSC and key partners are Jobcentre Plus, the NHS Academy North West, acute and primary care trusts and social care providers through the support of placement opportunities. Colleges provide a 10 week course, which is followed by a work placement and then an interview for a permanent job. Sustainability is key to the programme and learner support is provided throughout (e.g. childcare, dedicated staff etc). NHS managers have been positive about the benefits of the programme in terms of reducing attrition and focusing training more effectively.

Information on Ambition:Health can be obtained from Pat Perkin, NHS Academy North West 0151 482 5678.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships have been developed over several years and many people now choose them as a route to a career and as a way of accessing higher education. Skills and competence in specific employment trades are acquired by learning from those who are knowledgeable and competent in that employment trade and within employment. There are specific approaches for those who are 19 to 25, and for those who are over 26.

Find out more by visiting the North West Workbased Learning Provider Network
www.nwpl.co.uk

Career Development Loans (CDL)

This is a type of bank loan to help an individual finance and pay back work-related learning. It can be used by an individual to help them gain learning and development, qualifications or the experience needed to improve workplace competency or make a career transition. CDLs are available through an arrangement between the LSC and three high street banks; Barclays, The Co-operative Bank and The Royal Bank of Scotland. Loan amounts can be £300 to £8000 to help with up to two years of learning (more may be possible if related to relevant practical work experience). The LSC pays the interest on the loan while the individual is learning and for up to one month after the course stops.

A CDL can be used to fund a variety of courses with a large number of organisations. An individual does not have to be employed to apply as CDLs are also available for those who are self-employed or unemployed. It is important that an individual understands that a CDL is a personal loan between them and the bank and that the individual is responsible for repaying the loan (and relevant interest) to the bank. As such the individual should check how much the monthly repayments will be and be confident of being able to meet these. There are sections on the website (details below) which cover practical points and commitments an individual should consider before applying for a CDL.

CDL Information Line 0800 585 505 - 8am-10pm 7 days a week

On www.direct.gov.uk there is a section on career loans and links to ways in which you can email a CDL advisor or request a free call back from a CDL advisor.

Information Technology Qualification

The Information Technology Qualification (ITQ) is the National Vocational Qualification for IT users which enables them to demonstrate a level of competence (from Level 1 to 3) in IT in the workplace. In Scotland it is called the Scottish Vocational Qualification in Using IT.

It is primarily aimed at all IT users in the workplace rather than IT professionals or specialists. It was developed in conjunction with employers and has the backing of a number of awarding bodies. It recognises that IT is used in different contexts (not just offices) in the workplace and that the level and depth of this will vary according to role and organisation. It also recognises that success with IT in the workplace is more than what to do - it covers how to communicate effectively with IT and a range of IT competences.

When the qualification was developed it was understood that there was also a range of other IT related qualifications. So, many of these already acquired IT user qualifications can contribute towards an ITQ. Employers can also tailor the qualification to suit their particular needs.

Contact Details

ITQ

1 Castle Lane

London

SW1E 6DR

E-mail: itq@e-skills.com

Tel: 0207 963 8920

www.e-skills.com

SkillWorks

SkillWorks invests in the success of Greater Merseyside businesses. It is funded by the European Social Fund (see page 14) and the scheme runs until July 2008. Funding is dependent on location and size of a company. The business must be classified as small to medium size (SME - up to 250 employees) and these businesses can benefit from up to 60% funding for any training. They must also be based in what is called Merseyside Objective One and this comprises Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley, St Helens and Wirral. More information can be obtained from the website or the SkillWorks Gateway team who will assign a SkillWorks training partner to work with the business.

On www.theskillworks.com there is a page to register for information and help.

Tel: 0808 178 1782

Train to Gain

Train to Gain is a national skills service to support employers of all sizes and in all sectors to improve the skills of their employees as a route to improving their business performance. It is a commitment to jointly invest in training, by employers and Government.

Train to Gain is a free service designed so that organisations can get the training they need to succeed. It provides independent and impartial advice on training to organisations across England. This is achieved by giving access to a Skills Broker to work on the organisations behalf. The Skills Brokers are sector specialists who are accredited to national standards. They will spend time understanding the training needs (current and future) of that business and then match those needs to suitable training providers. One of the key aspects of this is ensuring that training is delivered at a time and place which is suitable for the business and its needs. Funding is available for qualifications subject to meeting eligibility criteria.

For the health sector in the North West the Skills Brokers work closely with the NHS Academy North West supporting service providers to access funding through Invest in Health – NHS colleagues can contact the Brokers through the Invest in Health Phone Line 0845 270 4525.

Visit www.traintogain.gov.uk where there is a link to the North West region web page.

Tel: 0845 602 0062 Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm or e-mail: information@traintogainnw.org

Northwest Regional Development Agency

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) leads the economic regeneration of the North West of England. There are nine Regional Development agencies across England. It is a business led organisation creating a link between Government policies and business needs. A key part of this is generating employment opportunities and ensuring that workforce development in the region is matched to employers' and individual's needs. The skills and education area of the NWDA focuses on developing strategies to support the region and ensuring structures and partnerships with key agencies and organisations are in place. There is also a specific focus on leadership and management skills, supporting the development of further and higher education and developing the future workforce of the region. Full details are on the website www.nwda.co.uk or email info@nwda.co.uk or Tel: 01925 400100.

Business Link Northwest offers support to businesses across the North West. The services cover business intelligence about the region and emerging trends, creating structured and individualised business development plans, and providing access to support and specialist business advice through a brokerage service. Full details can be found on www.businesslinknw.co.uk or 0845 00 66 888 or via tom.wilkins@businesslinknw.co.uk who is the Business Link contact for the North West.

European Social Fund

The European Social Fund (ESF) was established in 2000 with the aim of supporting the annual UK Employment Action Plan. This Action Plan guides how UK policies and initiatives take account of the Employment Guidelines established within the European Employment Strategy. This ESF has now moved into a new phase covering 2007-2013 based on new regulations governing the Structural and Cohesion Funds. The LSC (see page 10) and Jobcentre Plus (see page 16) are working with partner organisations in the North West on the development of programmes.

In the first funding phase (up to 2006) funding was distributed to projects via a number of partners such as the LSC, Jobcentre Plus, Development Agencies and local authorities. These partners worked together to find what was called match funding within a system known as 'Co-financing'. This system enables successful applicants to receive 100% funding for their projects. Funding from 2007 onwards has a greater focus on employment and skills, with the partnership working and Co-financing continuing to be a key feature.

The funds have three objectives, all of which are at work in the North West:

Objective 1

This is the highest level of regional funding available. Eligible areas are those that have less than 75 per cent of EU average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. In the North West, Merseyside is the only area to qualify for this level of funding.

Objective 2

Objective 2 is the second highest level of funding available from the EU and aims to support the economic and social conversion of areas facing structural difficulties.

Objective 3

Objective 3 is the European Social Fund. It develops skills and labour markets so that people who are facing exclusion improve their skills, and their flexibility to compete more effectively in global labour markets.

Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus is an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The DWP aims to 'promote opportunity and independence for all' and deliver this through providing 'work for those who can and support for those who cannot'.

Jobcentre Plus provides a range of services for individuals and employers both, directly and in partnership with other organisations. In helping its customers find work, its aim is to give specialist help to people who face the most disadvantages in the labour market such as lone parents, older people, people from ethnic minorities and people with health problems or disabilities. This specialist help aims to give them the skills they need to help them compete for jobs and to move up in their careers.

Jobcentre Plus offices are set up to help people of working age. They do not provide funding directly to employing organisations but operate fair and open tendering rounds through DWP e-channels as a need is identified. A network of offices and contact centres across Britain provides a range of services for organisations including:

- advice on recruitment methods, events and procedures or help with distributing application forms
- information about the local job market, such as employment levels, the availability of candidates and wage rates
- expert advice about employment and any difficulties or barriers to filling your vacancies
- interview facilities at some of their offices
- help with carrying out interviews with Disability Symbol users

Jobcentre Plus also offers services to help organisations overcome obstacles associated with recruiting staff. These include:

New Deal - employers may benefit from financial grants if they recruit people who are taking part in New Deal. The New Deal gives the unemployed the opportunity to develop the skills and experience that employers want so they can find sustainable jobs. There is special help with employing and retaining people with disabilities.

Work Trials - allow an applicant to show what they can do, and allow you to assess how well suited they are to your job. Jobcentre Plus will continue to pay benefits during this time.

Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) - tackle the increasing recruitment and skills challenges of our labour market and economy. Employers sign up to opening up opportunities for people who, for whatever reason, have not yet been able to take advantage of the employment opportunities that are out there. Jobcentre Plus provides support to help you give customers the job-related skills they need and gives you access to candidates who are ready for work. To explore the ways that Local Employment Partnerships could work for your business and make a difference to your community, contact Jobcentre Plus on lep.eng@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk, or call on 0845 600 8192

Contact Details

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/Employers

0845 6012001. A textphone service for people with speech or hearing problems is available on 0845 6012002. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturdays 10am to 4pm

Specific Workforce Development Support

Aimhigher

Aimhigher is a programme (not a separate organisation) run by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and is supported by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). It began in 2001 as Excellence Challenge. By 2004, after joining with “Partnerships for Progression” (P4P), a unified national outreach programme, now called Aimhigher, was established. Aimhigher exists to widen participation in all forms of higher education (HE) and specifically works with young people from disadvantaged social and economic backgrounds, and people with disabilities.

Aimhigher has a number of roles. One is to raise awareness and understanding of the different routes (from A levels to vocational qualifications) into HE. This is linked to increasing motivation towards HE and raising aspirations about extending education particularly for those from under-represented groups. This is in line with Government targets for providing HE opportunities to those in the 18-30 age group. Aimhigher offers advice and information to potential students as well as their families and teachers.

Funding Available

Aimhigher is funded by the DIUS and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). The funding supports activities such as campus visits, residential summer schools, mentoring programmes and other information sources. Most of these activities take place at a local level and are planned and managed by “Areas” (or sub-regions). In addition to the main Aimhigher programme there is a separate health care strand that is jointly funded by the Department of Health (DH) and HEFCE. Local partners for this strand include a number of NHS trusts as well as colleges and universities.

Eligibility for Funding

Aimhigher funds a wide range of activities that are delivered by organisations and institutions that are members of Aimhigher partnerships. The national website has a section on student finance which covers details about loans for fees, living costs, maintenance grants, bursaries and scholarships. There are also various fact sheets and question and answer sections.

Contact Details

National programme website: www.aimhigher.ac.uk

National practitioner website: www.aimhigher.ac.uk/practitioner

Please note that there will no longer be a regional office for Aimhigher after 31 July 2008 and enquiries can be made via Area partnerships (contact details via the websites).

Connexions

Connexions is a Government funded information and advice service for young people aged 13 to 19 in England. The service aims to provide integrated advice, guidance and access to personal development opportunities for this group and to help them make a smooth transition to adulthood and working life.

Connexions partnerships cover the same geographical areas as the Learning and Skills Councils. There are 47 Connexions partnerships across England. Each partnership has flexibility to meet local needs.

Connexions strategic objectives are as follows:

- to reduce the proportion of 16 – 18 year olds not in employment, education or Learning and Development
- to increase the number of 13 – 19 year olds participating in learning
- to improve behaviour and reduce crime by young people
- to provide better outcomes for young people from black and ethnic minorities

Connexions Personal Advisers (PAs) are based in most Connexions Access Points, which can be found in schools, colleges, youth centres and high street locations. They give professional and confidential advice on a range of subjects from careers and education to drug abuse, homelessness and teenage pregnancy.

Contact Details

Website: www.connexions.gov.uk

Advice Line: 080 800 13 2 19

Learndirect

Learndirect was created by Ufi Ltd, the largest e-learning network of its kind in the world. Their mission is to use technology to transform the skills and employability of the working population to improve the UK's productivity

Learndirect operates a network of more than 800 learning centres in England and Wales, providing access to a range of e-learning opportunities. Learndirect's flexible learning is available to individual adults wanting to improve existing skills or to learn new ones, and to employers looking for an innovative way to develop the skills of their

workforce.

Since its launch in 2000 more than two million learners have enrolled on a learndirect course. More than 500 different courses are available, covering a range of subjects at all levels including literacy, numeracy, specialist Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and business and management.

For health and social care employees, Learndirect courses are offered through Care Connect learning hubs.

Who is funding?

How much you pay will depend on personal circumstances and the course chosen. Government funding for learning is often available and Learndirect centre staff will confirm if an individual is eligible for funding.

Who is eligible to access the scheme?

Learndirect's flexible learning is available to individual adults wanting to improve existing skills or to learn new ones and to employers looking for an innovative way to develop the skills of their workforce.

Contact Details

learndirect careers advice 0800 100 900

learndirect business: 0800 150 750

Website: www.learndirect.co.uk

Website: www.ufi.com

Move On/Move On Up

Skills for Life is the national strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy. It aims to actively involve employers in developing literacy and numeracy skills by making the case for addressing this area as a matter of good practice.

Move On is the strand within Skills for Life that focuses on helping learners fulfil their potential by improving their literacy and numeracy skills to Level 2 (GCSE A*-C). Learners can also gain a national qualification. It focuses on opportunity for all rather than need for some. Through different types of promotion and support it emphasises the benefits that learning and qualifications can bring and encourages people to believe they can progress.

Move On Up is a national project which builds on the success of Move On. It aims to broaden the approach of Move On and embed the Move On approach throughout a

variety of organisations. Project strands include:

- *Move Up*: adapting the approach for Entry 3 learners.
- *Test the Town/Company*: offers a campaign approach to promoting the improvement of English and maths with achievement built in. It provides an opportunity to engage the whole community or organisation in the Skills for Life challenge
- *Get On At Work*: the part of the strategy which focuses on working with employer organisations and unions to encourage the development of workplace Skills for Life opportunities.

Funding Available

Funding for all Skills for Life training provision is available to all Learning and Skills Council funded providers via LSC core funding. Funding is also available via the Train to Gain service Contact your local training provider for all enquiries regarding Skills for Life training opportunities. All Skills for Life education is fully funded and free at the point of learning.

Eligibility for Funding

Adults with Skills for Life needs across the UK are eligible. As an example, these may be:

- supervisors and junior managers, especially those promoted internally who may want to brush up on some aspects of literacy and numeracy
- non-qualified employees who want their skills recognised
- qualified employees who have secured higher level qualifications while still having some gaps in the English or maths skills they need for work, perhaps because their qualifications were achieved some time ago.

Key partners/agencies

Learning and Skills Councils, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Quality Improvement Agency, Learndirect, Confederation of British Industry, Trades Union Congress, Small Business Services, Regional Development Agencies, Sector Skills Councils.

Contact Details

Website: www.move-on.org.uk and
general enquiries info@move-on.org.uk
or 01223 478291

North West Region contact: alison.brierley@tribalgroup.co.uk or call 07748 980692.

Unionlearn

Unionlearn is the learning and skills organisation of the Trade Union Congress (TUC). Unionlearn helps unions promote the benefits of studying either within the workplace or with a local learning provider. In doing this the unions themselves become learning organisations as they support their partners in accessing learning opportunities through a range of services. These services are based on a belief that the entire workforce should have fair and equal access to learning facilities.

Unionlearn has a range of functions. These include:

- providing workforce development programmes for union representatives
- supporting regional projects to extending learning in the workplace
- supporting learning centres
- establishing and developing standards of excellence in learning
- developing learning and skills policies.

Unionlearn continues to promote the concept of the Union Learning Representative which has been crucial in providing the organisational framework in developing employer/union partnerships, identifying learning needs, promoting learning in the workplace, providing learners with support and signposting learners to future learning opportunities.

The North West has its own Unionlearn team (full details can be accessed via the regional page of the website – see page 23).

Funding Available

In the North West there is a 'Skills for All' Fund. This has been developed in relationship with the LSC and the Regional Development Agency with the aim of supporting Union

Learning Representatives (ULRs) to establish learning projects within the workplace. It is hoped that this will support ULRs in driving the learning agenda for their members and in workplaces. Projects using the funding are in a pilot phase up to March 2008. From April 2008 the funding available will be given in three different ways: learning events promotion, capacity building, and supporting existing structures. Full details of funding and the bid process are available on the North West page of the Unionlearn website (see below).

Who is eligible to access the scheme?

Any trade union based in England, or any national organisation representing trade unions based in England, whether or not it is affiliated to the TUC, is eligible to apply for Union Learning Fund.

Contact details

www.unionlearn.org.uk.

North West TUC

Unionlearn

Suite 506-510 The Cotton Exchange

Old Hall Street

Liverpool

L3 9UD

Tel: 0151 236 5366

Email: ulweb@tuc.org.uk

Specific Funding

Lottery. 0845 275 0000 or www.lotteryfunding.org.uk provides information about current funding for projects across the UK. It is run by all lottery funders and there are details on the website of who they are, what they do, and how to take things forward from an initial idea for a project.

Research Grants. Funding for research comes from various sources: Government (e.g. via the Department of Health), private sector, charities, educational organisations and different agencies. There are a variety of websites which provide information, for example, www.fundinginformation.org or 0845 8904930.

Sponsorships and Scholarships. There are some scholarships and/or sponsorships available for education and training. These can be in both the private and public sector. For these it is suggested you do a search on the internet under the key words within the field.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF). WNF is a new fund introduced to provide resources to local authorities that have some of the highest concentrations of worklessness and lowest levels of skills and enterprise. WNF will be paid to local authorities as part of their Area Based Grant - this forms part of the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) funding arrangements which come into force in 2008/09.

WNF funding builds on the success of the National Strategy on Neighbourhood Renewal introduced in 2001. WNF has been introduced to focus attention and resources on reducing levels of worklessness through job creation and equipping people with the skills to run their own businesses. Each local area will decide how WNF is to be used to tackle its priorities as set out in its Local Area Agreement. Further details can be obtained from your Local Authority or from the Government Office in your region.