

## Re-licensing Sector Skills Councils Consultation Skills for Justice

### UK Commission for Employment and Skills

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## A response from the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS)

March 2009

### Introduction

1. The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) is the independent voice of the voluntary youth sector in England. A diverse network of over 170 national voluntary youth organisations and regional and local youth networks, NCVYS has been working since 1936 to raise the profile of youth work, share good practice and influence policy that has an impact on young people and the organisations that support them.
2. The NCVYS network reflects the diverse range of voluntary organisations working with young people at community, local, regional and national level. Most of our members offer opportunities to engage in challenging activities or develop creative talents. They also support young people to become active in their communities and offer opportunities for their voice to be heard. Some offer interventions to prevent or tackle specific issues such as homelessness or offending behaviour. Others offer counselling, advice, Guidance and information. All contribute to young people's personal and social development; some also engage with spiritual development.
3. For more information on any element of this paper, please contact NCVYS's Workforce Development Officer, Nichola Brown at [nichola@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:nichola@ncvys.org.uk) or 01905 619139.

## Introduction

4. The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) welcomes the opportunity to feed in to the re-licensing process. This response focuses on Skills for Justice and is submitted as a response to the current consultation being undertaken by UKCES on the reissuing of licenses to existing sector skills councils..

In preparation for this response NCVYS undertook a consultation exercise with our membership base of over 170 voluntary and community youth organisations working with and for young people across England. We also engaged in one to one discussions with individuals working with young people to gauge their views and undertook a meeting with membership representatives to enable discussion about the relicensing process with respect to the Skills for Justice Sector Skills Council.

Members were asked in particular to offer their views on the strengths and weaknesses of Skills for Justice. We also specifically sought member input on the position that occupations connected to the justice system should remain together. Key findings from responses received have been summarised below and resulted in the following targeted recommendation for youth legal advice workers to officially fall under the footprint of Skills for Justice to ensure greater fluidity and joined up working amongst those youth workers that are specifically supporting young people with regards to youth justice issues.

## Key recommendation

**Recommendation: Youth legal advice workers should officially fall under the footprint of Skills for Justice.**

## General Comments

5. The following were noted as key strengths and examples of good practice of Skills for Justice:
  - Skills for Justice was recognised for its good partnership working and was particularly noted for working with NCVYS in the consultation process of the vulnerable young people worker award demonstrating a pragmatic approach to working in partnership with the sector in order to develop support for young people
  - the helpful support Skills for Justice gave to the NOS for Legal Advice Standards Steering Group was recognised. The support included developing a user-friendly toolkit, facilitation of meetings, contacts and web consultation; and
  - the development of a Children's Workforce Programme Lead was noted as good practice. It was recognised that this post is already working with some NCVYS members in order to offer guidance and training.
6. A key area for the development of Skills for Justice is around youth legal advice workers who do not officially come under the footprint of Skills for Justice. The voluntary sector who employ these workers have to pay an amount per employee to subscribe to Skills for Justice. The sector has no funding resources to meet these costs and therefore this caused difficulties when developing the NOS for Legal Advice. Initially the funding for the development of the NOS for Legal Advice came from the European Social Fund, but when this funding came to an end there was no funding to then develop accredited training courses based on the NOS.

**Recommendation: Youth legal advice workers should officially fall under the footprint of Skills for Justice**