



What is the Health JIF?

The Joint Investment Framework (JIF) is a vital initiative which offers real opportunities for the wider East Midlands health sector workforce both now and in the future. Its specific aims are to:

- Develop a skilled workforce through high quality, relevant provision and targeted investment
- Deliver skills, learning and qualifications to improve patient care and the delivery of services

Background to the JIF

In July 2007 a national agreement was signed between Skills for Health, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the 10 Strategic Health Authorities to form the Joint Investment Framework (JIF) and the National Health Sector Strategic Alliance.

The East Midlands JIF will mirror the national agreement and will focus on healthcare staff in bands 1-4 (Agenda for Change) and skills and qualifications at Levels 2, 3 and 4, as well as Apprenticeships and Skills for Life.

Partnership in the East Midlands

- The NHS in the East Midlands will commit match funding to supporting the training and development needs of your organisation and your employees.
- Skills for Health's commitment is to draw together the partners to the JIF; to provide infrastructure support via the East Midlands Skills Academy for Health; to ensure that the qualifications on offer to your staff are fit for purpose.
- LSC East Midlands will commit match funding to ensure that our provider base responds flexibly to identified training demand primarily through the Train to Gain brokerage and will make a robust skills offer to support you in delivering patient care.

We now have a national and regional structure to support the partnership working which is already making real progress.

To find out more please contact Julie Bellm, the JIF Partnership Manager in the East Midlands at julie.bellm@eastmidlands.nhs.uk

Joint Investment Framework





Joint Investment Framework (JIF) Q&A

What is the JIF?

The JIF supports the wishes of the NHS SHA Workforce Directors and LSC, facilitated by Skills for Health to increase and make better use of spending on skills development in the sector.

The agreement also supports implementation of the Sector Skills Agreement for Health, which reflects service policy priorities and SHA workforce plans and developments across England.

It is a three year plan from August 2007 and covers all nine regions in England.

LSC support will come via Train to Gain funds.

NHS funds will support healthcare staff receiving training.

Why have a JIF?

The benefit to the sector is that the LSC investment will in the future be much better aligned to the specific needs of employers in the sector, and delivery will be integrated into employers' overall training plans.

How will the JIF be managed?

A long term national Health Sector Strategic Alliance (HSSA) has been established to (a) provide oversight, monitoring and momentum for the agreement and (b) in the context of future policy, set the strategic direction for engagement with and relationships between LSC and sector employers. The HSSA will ensure there are robust planning models at national and regional levels to influence the total LSC resource available across the sector.

An East Midlands Regional HSSA has been formed including the East Midlands SHA, Skills for Health and the LSC.

Can employers choose their preferred supplier of the provision?

Employers can select from a wide range of quality assured providers who form part of the LSC's network of deliverers. The LSC can use its Train to Gain Regional Response Fund to bring in specialist providers where the sector has been identified as a regional priority for the Fund.

Can an employer deliver provision in house and how do they become approved for delivery?

The NHS will continue to utilise their in house training provision but employers who are also providers of training can apply to become a Train to Gain provider in the usual way, through the national Open and Competitive Tendering (OCT) procurement process or the Regional Response Fund process (where the sector has been identified as a regional priority for the Fund). Employers would need to meet the same requirements as all LSC providers in terms of capability and capacity, and meet LSC quality standards.

How will the JIF be evaluated?

On behalf of the National HSSA, Skills for Health has commissioned an evaluation of the early outcomes of the JIF and an assessment of good practice developing across the regions. This will include establishment of a longer term model for evaluation and a more robust approach to evidence and data collection to support future investment decisions.

Interim and full reports will be available on the Skills for Health website at www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/page/joint-investment-framework