

## Going for Gold theatre tour to inspire London's teenagers

**Date of issue** 14 February 2008  
**Publication number** LSC-PR-LOR-0807  
**Embargo until** 09.00 on 14 February 2008

A unique play about the vocational opportunities available for young people in the run-up to the 2012 Games and beyond will tour 130 schools across London from today. *Going for Gold* has been especially developed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to inspire and engage young people in the opportunities presented by London hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games has the potential to act as a catalyst for economic growth in some of the most deprived areas of London, driving forward initiatives to tackle worklessness by providing employment opportunities and improving the skills of those both unemployed and in work. The LSC is one of the key funding bodies for skills around the 2012 Games. The theatre tour will aim to increase the awareness of young people about the many different learning, career and voluntary opportunities available to them.

By 2012, 12,000 more trained construction workers will be required to work in London and thousands of new jobs will be available in the sports, audio-visual and hospitality sectors. The LSC will invest up to £7 million each year to improve the range and quality of Apprenticeships in London so that these skills gaps can be met by Londoners.

The performance will provide young people with an introduction to the 2012 Games and its legacy and what it means for them as individuals. Information will be provided about the increasing range of Apprenticeships available in sectors which will benefit directly from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The play also aims to raise young people's aspirations and signpost them to services where they can get independent careers advice and guidance.

Mary Conneely, LSC Regional Director Regeneration London said:

“This play will tour over 130 schools across London and we hope that it will really excite young people, inspiring them to set challenging career goals and to get involved in the sporting, volunteering and other activities that will be going on in the run-up to 2012.

“We see the Games as presenting an un-rivalled opportunity for us to tackle social deprivation and promote social cohesion in London by providing more young people with the skills they need to find work and succeed in their chosen career.”

The play has been developed by the LSC together with Gibber Theatre Group. To find out more about the play go to <http://www.myspace.com/gibberalfie>. To book a free performance for your school, email [sarah@gibbertraining.com](mailto:sarah@gibbertraining.com).

-ENDS-

#### **Notes to Editors**

#### **Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. It is responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. It has a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Its vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. It works nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

[www.lsc.gov.uk/london](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/london)

#### **For further information please contact:**

Emily Towers  
Learning and Skills Council  
020 7904 0784  
07917 246 016  
[emily.towers@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:emily.towers@lsc.gov.uk)