

# Skills Accounts Quick Guide: Learning Providers (Management)

August 2009

This guide provides an overview of Skills Accounts, your role in the trial and detail of the current Skills Account offer.

For further detail please see the complete guidelines available on the Campaign Resources Website [www.lsc.gov.uk/campaignresources](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/campaignresources).

## 1. Introduction

A Skills Account is a personalised online service. It provides access to a range of information and advice on skills, careers and financial support in a single location.

[www.direct.gov.uk/skillsaccounts](http://www.direct.gov.uk/skillsaccounts)

It is a new way for an individual to take control of their learning and working life, allowing them:

- direct online access to skills and careers advice
- details about their eligibility for government funding for training
- information on courses and providers in their area

The vision is that by 2015 Skills Accounts will be the sole mechanism by which adults will access their entitlement to funding for training.

## 2. Benefits

**Skills Accounts:**

- Offers your organisation a chance to influence thinking and shape a new service which is currently in early trial.
- Supports the commitment to an FE system that is responsive to individual learner choice, giving you the opportunity to tailor your offer for maximum return and increased recruitment opportunities.
- Aspires that by 2015 up to £1.5bn Adult Learner Responsive funding may be available to learners with a Skills Account.

**A Skills Account provides an individual with:**

- A range of information and advice on skills, careers and financial support all in one place.
- A Personal resource to manage and use during their learning and working life.
- The ability to input learning information once but use again and again, adapting it

to meet individual needs. (e.g. action planning and Learning Record).

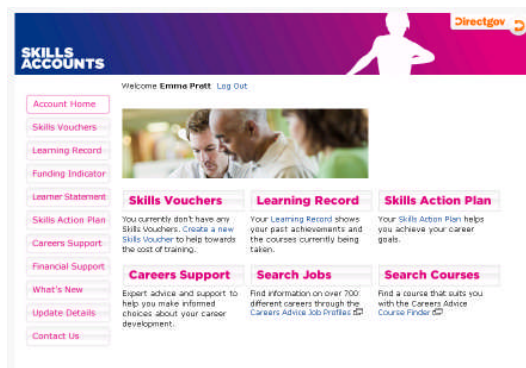
- Access to an online record of learning easily accessible and available wherever and whenever they are needed.

**How will this add value to the service I deliver?**

- Skills Accounts will help to create a more informed learner, driving up improved recruitment and retention.
- Tools such as the Skills and Interest Assessment support the enrolment process, ensuring that learners are accessing provision that will support them into work linked to their current skills and interests.
- The Course Search gives you access to more learners if you make full use of the National Learning Directory.

## 3. System Access

Access to Skills Accounts is via the URL [www.direct.gov.uk/skillsaccounts](http://www.direct.gov.uk/skillsaccounts).



Registration takes 5 steps. Once the Skills Account is created, the individual can use the other services available including the Skills and Interests Assessment, Course Finder and Careers Advice Job Profiles, which will help them to make informed choices about their learning and working life.

## 4. Role of Learning Providers

- Promote and champion the Skills Account vision and support the delivery of Skills Accounts
- Ensure staff are briefed and fully aware of the Skills Accounts proposition
- Embed Skills Accounts as part of your business processes
- Provide feedback and help shape the Skills Account service

## 5. What is available on the system?

A Skills Account provides an individual with access to:

- a **Learning Record** containing details of their past achievements and qualifications, and if gained from 07/08 onwards can be verified by a learning provider. It also includes a section where they can add their other prior learning activities and achievements and any courses they are taking.
- a **Skills Action Plan**, which is a personal development plan created with a **nextstep** adviser and following a Skills Health Check (if appropriate)
- a **Learner Statement** that shows the actual funding the government has put towards their learning (from 08/09 onwards). This will be set against the amounts they have put towards it (if appropriate)
- enhanced **Careers Support** via the Careers Advice Service with 'Call Me' and 'Mail an Adviser' functions through the Skills Accounts website.
- a **Course Finder** that enables them to view what courses are available in their area so that they can choose the provider, course and time that suits their needs
- a **Skills and Interest Assessment Tool** which helps to assess Skills and Interests and identify job groups that they are best equipped to do and which are likely to capture their interest

- a **Qualifications Calculator** that shows their current highest level of qualification achieved to help them plan their next steps
- **Careers Advice Job Profiles** enabling a search across a range of information about the types of job they are interested in

As the Skills Account service develops, the online offer will become more closely integrated and aligned with other information and services delivered through Directgov – for example, Careers Advice content.

## 6. Future plans

The 2009/10 Skills Accounts trial will expand nationally through a carefully planned process. The first phase will extend the trial from the current two trial regions (South East and East Midlands) to five new LSC regions later this year.

New functions are being developed along with targeting new audiences in different trial regions. These will potentially include:

- Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD)
- Carers or individuals in receipt of Tax Credits (TC)

## 7. Contacts and further information

For questions or to provide feedback please contact the LSC SE Skills Accounts team:

<a href="mailto:Ben.Blackledge@lsc.gov.uk">Ben.Blackledge@lsc.gov.uk</a>	0118 908 2166
<a href="mailto:Penny.Askew@lsc.gov.uk">Penny.Askew@lsc.gov.uk</a>	0118 908 2111
<a href="mailto:Tricia.Allison@lsc.gov.uk">Tricia.Allison@lsc.gov.uk</a>	0118 908 2266

Customer Feedback can be made on the Skills Account website using the feedback form under 'contact us'.

Individuals can get support (including technical issues) by

- Calling the Careers Advice Service **0800 100 900**
- Using the new 'Call Me' and 'Mail and Adviser' functions on the website.

Visit [www.lsc.gov.uk/campaignresources](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/campaignresources) for operational guidelines and marketing collateral