Apprenticeship Week 2009 – Third Sector Release

Next week, Monday 23 February to Friday 27 February 2009, is the second annual Apprenticeship Week to take place across England. Apprenticeship Week is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the essential role that Apprenticeships are playing in today’s workplace, to ensure that the workforce has the skills it needs in order to remain competitive, even in difficult economic circumstances.

The Third Sector can benefit from Apprenticeships in all sorts of ways. Those organisations that have already employed Apprenticeships report that they bring fresh ideas and new thinking into the organisation. With the sector embarking on more and more public service delivery opportunities, apprentices find the work rewarding and enjoy contributing to their community. Staff working with apprentices, also benefit from development opportunities, as they act as coaches and mentors, which can lead to a new set of skills for the organisation as a whole.

Dame Mary Marsh, Interim Chair of Skills – Third Sector, The new Third Sector Skills Body and a member of the LSC National Council said:

“Third sector organisations that have employed apprentices really benefit from fresh ideas and new thinking. Apprentices are ‘doers’ who make great things happen, and can bring opportunities to expand and deliver their provision through employers. I welcome Apprenticeship week which shows the role that apprenticeships play in providing opportunities for both individuals and organisations.”

It's heartening to see that employers are really feeling the difference that apprentices can make to their business. Apprenticeship Week 2009 is the chance for Third Sector employers to share the many benefits that Apprenticeships are delivering on a daily basis for their organisations. Throughout Apprenticeship Week, events and awareness raising activities are going to roll-out across the country. There are Third Sector specific events in most regions, that can help you to consider how your organisation can take on an apprentice and how other Third Sector organisations are benefiting from Apprenticeships.

To find out more about the week and to find our how Apprenticeships can make things happen for your organisation call 08000 150 600 or visit the www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Background
Apprenticeship Week activities will take place around the country and involve celebrities, politicians and apprentices. The week is an opportunity to promote the benefits that apprentices bring to businesses and the economy.

Apprenticeships are a blend of on and off the job training that gives the apprentice the skills they need for their chosen career whilst earning a wage.

More than 130,000 employers currently employ apprentices. There are over 180 types of Apprenticeships available in more than 80 sectors of industry and commerce from engineering to boat building, veterinary nursing to accountancy.

**Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our 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. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

www.lsc.gov.uk

**NAVCA**

NAVCA is the national voice of local third sector infrastructure in England. We aim to ensure communities are well served by the local third sector by supporting our members and their work with over 160,000 local groups and organisations. NAVCA believes that local voluntary and community action is vital for healthy and inclusive communities.

www.navca.org.uk

**ACEVO**

The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations works solely to support, develop, connect and represent the third sector’s leaders. The organisation has over 2,400 members, who enjoy access to a wealth of resources which benefit both the chief executive and their organisations. Benefits include networking opportunities, professional development, regular briefings and dedicated advice services. For more information visit

www.acevo.org.uk

**NCVO**

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) www.ncvo-vol.org.uk is the umbrella body for the voluntary sector in England, with sister councils in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. NCVO has over 6,800 members, ranging from large national bodies to community groups, volunteer centres, and development agencies working at a local level. With over 280,000 staff and over 13 million volunteers working for our members, we represent and support almost half the voluntary sector workforce.

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk