



taking action to improve and embed skills for life



skills for life – Get On local government

www.idea.gov.uk/skillsforlife



developing a talented workforce

improvement and development
agency for local government

what is the Get On local government campaign?

Get On local government is the national campaign to improve skills for life in the local government workforce. It aims to encourage local authority employers to take a more proactive, sustained and strategic approach to workplace skills for life.

The national definition of skills for life is 'the ability to read, write and speak in English and to use mathematics at a level necessary to function at work and in society in general'.

It is estimated that 11 per cent of the local government workforce are below level one (equivalent to below GCSE grade G) in literacy and 40 per cent are below level one in numeracy. Poor literacy, language and numeracy skills can make it difficult for employees to provide high levels of customer care, meet performance targets, deal with change or access training.

The Get On campaign implements the national Skills for Life Strategy practically in local government, through the GO local government award. The GO award provides a framework to help local authorities embed skills for life across a whole organisation and requires high level commitment from an authority's managerial and political leadership in order to move forward. Once signed-up, an authority commits to developing an action plan within nine months and then implementing it at both strategic and operational levels.

Authorities achieving the full GO local government award regard skills for life as an integrated aspect of the wider staff development offer.

what's in it for your authority?

Local authorities addressing skills for life needs within their organisations benefit in the following ways:

- increased productivity of employees
- increased morale of employees – therefore increased retention
- higher levels of service delivery
- efficiency savings
- improved reputation as an employer of choice
- the creation of a learning culture within the organisation
- a positive impact on CPA ratings
- meeting the skills for life requirements of the Investors in People standard.

how can your authority get involved?

Read more about skills for life, the Get On local government campaign and getting involved in the GO local government award at www.idea.gov.uk/skillsforlife

Alternatively contact the IDeA's Skills for Life Adviser, Freda Grant by email: freda.grant@idea.gov.uk

how to contact us

Please do get in touch to discover how we can help you:

telephone 020 7296 6880

email ihelp@idea.gov.uk

Find out more at www.idea.gov.uk