

Get On Local Government

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National Context:

Government SFL Strategy launched 2001.

Initial PSA target to improve the skills of 750,000 people by 2004.

Further PSA target of improving the skills of 1.5 million people by 2007 and 2.25 million people by 2010.

Improving skills among public sector employees and among employees in the supply chain to public sector is a key priority.

The Developing picture

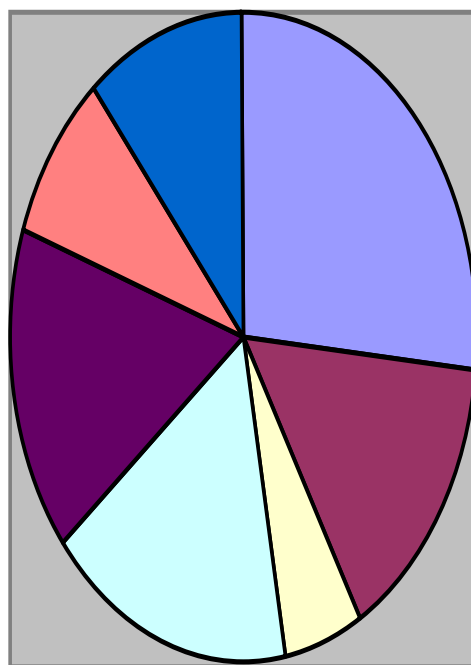
- 21st Century Skills White Paper
 - Sector Skills Councils
 - Regional Skills Partnerships
- New Quality Improvement Agency to be developed
- 14-19 White Paper 2005
 - Emphasis on need for skills at age 14 and beyond
 - Focus on functional skills appropriate for the workplace
- Skills White Paper 2005
 - Development of NETP
 - Building the contribution of trade unions
 - Sector agreements and academies

There are over 430 local authority employers with a workforce of over 2 million people in England and Wales. These employers range from small district councils employing less than 200 employees to large metropolitan local authorities employing over 30,000 people.

It is estimated that:

- 230,000 Local Government employees (11% of the workforce) are below level 1 in literacy (below GCSE English Grade G)
- 780,000 Local Government employees (40% of the workforce) are below level 1 in numeracy (below GCSE Maths grade G)

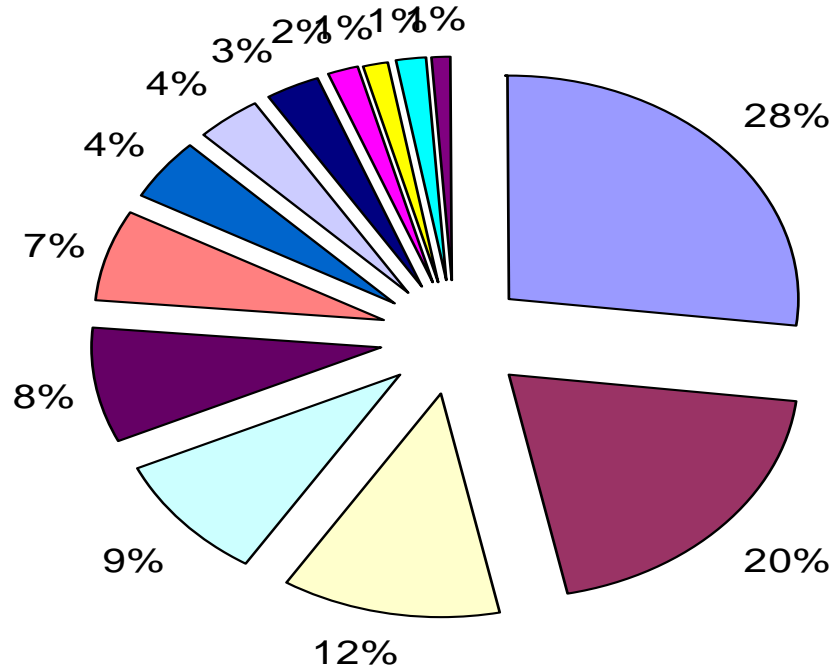
Level of Highest Qualification by LG Employees



- NMQ Level 4+ (26.7%)
- NMQ Level 3 (15%)
- Trade Apprenticeships (5.3%)
- NMQ Level 2 (17%)
- Below NMQ Level 2 (16.3%)
- Other Qualifications (8.7%)
- No Qualifications (11%)

Level of Highest Qualification held by Local Government Employees in the UK

% of LG Workforce by Sector:



- NON-SSC - LOCAL GOV'T
- LIFELONG LEARNING
- SKILLS FOR CARE
- ASSET SKILLS
- HOSPITALITY, LEISURE TRAVEL & TOURISM
- JUSTICE
- OTHER SSCs
- CONSTRUCTION SKILLS
- SKILLS ACTIVE
- LANTRA

Get On Local Government

Our aim is to raise the demand among local authority employers to take a more proactive, sustained and strategic approach to workplace basic skills.

FACT: CPA has shown that poorly and fairly performing authorities under invest in workforce development. Plans in all authorities should re-invest in focused skills development

“The improvement needed will only be achieved by **improving the capacity and capability of the people who deliver the services**. Having a **structured approach to building the capacity** of the workforce will therefore positively impact and improve the services delivered to the community.”

Source: Audit Commission CPA Briefing Paper 3: People Management Jun 2003

The Campaign

1. Launch of **Local Government Skills for Life Strategy in England 2005-7**, March 2005
2. Launch of **GO Local Government Award**, May 2005
3. Launch of **Basic Skills and Local Government** booklet in customised Employer Toolkit, June 2005
4. Launch of phase 1 **DVD**, July 2005
5. Launch of **SFL Champions booklet**, February 2006
6. Contextualised Level 2 Certificate in Learner Support
7. 6 x regional networks and launch events
8. Customised scratchcards
9. **Phase 2 DVD** (on its way!)

GO Local Government Award criteria

1. Whole organisation approach
2. Development of SFL Strategy for the Authority
3. Developing staff to support SFL
4. Appropriate identification of staff with SFL needs
5. Flexibility of delivery
6. SFL staff development offer forms part of wider programme

Key: whole organisation approach, working with unions and other partners, entitlement for all staff in all roles throughout the authority