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For Immediate Release

## Driving up standards for taxi and private hire drivers

Twenty-nine local licensed taxi and private hire drivers received their NVQ Level 2 certificate in Road Passenger Transport from the Mayor, Cllr Mohammed Riaz, last Thursday (1 October) at Barnfield College.

Developed by the Learning and Skills Council and Go Skills, this NVQ is specifically designed for taxi and private hire drivers to ensure health and safety for themselves and their passengers, and that they:

- drive taxi or private hire vehicles safely and efficiently
- provide professional customer service
- deal effectively with difficult passengers
- deal effectively with emergencies and incidents when transporting passengers
- provide a transport service for passengers who need help
- safely transport children and young people.

Paying tribute to the drivers, the Mayor said: "These drivers are the first in Luton to achieve their NVQ and they must be applauded for investing in themselves by spending their own time at college and completing work-based portfolios to ensure they deliver the best possible service to local people."

The qualification has been introduced to Luton thanks to successful partnership working between the Council, the Barnfield College and ABA Training - an external specialist training organisation. The drivers have benefited from Government funding for the course.

ABA Training, one of the leaders in the field of driver training, has tailored the sessions to minimise a driver's down time. Courses continue at Barnfield College where any driver who has problems with numeracy or literacy problems is also offered extra tuition.

If you are a licensed driver interested in enrolling on this course, please contact [martin.grout@luton.gov.uk](mailto:martin.grout@luton.gov.uk) or call 01582 546170.

Note for editors

1. Photographs available.
2. Barnfield contact: Denise Meacham, [denise.meacham@barnfield.ac.uk](mailto:denise.meacham@barnfield.ac.uk) , Tel: 569822/07824 694517.
3. ABA Training Ltd, South Suffolk Business Centre, Alexandra Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2ZX, [www.aba-training.com](http://www.aba-training.com) Tel: 01787 377988 or Anne Howes on 01245 478222.

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