

City College Norwich receives new standard for training excellence

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City College Norwich has achieved a *Training Quality Standard* for delivering high quality ICT training to employers in the region. The college is one of the first training providers in the Eastern region to reach the new standards.

The *Training Quality Standard*, which was officially launched earlier this month, has been developed to give employers a benchmark for choosing training provision. The new standards highlight excellence in provider responsiveness to employer needs and provider excellence in a particular vocational area. Achieving the standard demonstrates providers' ability to offer high quality training at a time and place to suit employers, setting them apart from competition and making it easy for employers to find the right training solutions for their business.

Dick Palmer, Principal of City College Norwich, said: "It is fantastic news that City College Norwich is one of the very first colleges to be recognised for the high quality of our training offer to employers. The award of the *Training Quality Standard* is recognition of the focus we have on the needs of employers in our region and our commitment to meeting their skills needs. This tops a year of real success for City College Norwich, following the launch of our first National Skills Academy – in Financial Services – and becoming the first provider in the country to be granted Awarding Body Status, enabling us to work with employers to accredit their own training provision."

Graham Brough, Area Director for Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Norfolk, said: "I would like to congratulate City College Norwich for being the first training provider in Norfolk to be recognised for its exceptional services. Obtaining the *Training Quality*

Standard is an outstanding achievement which demonstrates a consistent effort by the college to provide excellent training to employers across the county.

“Training is at the core of any successful enterprise and by bringing training providers and employers together to deliver economically valuable skills and qualifications we hope to make high quality training accessible for all in Norfolk and I hope many more providers will, in time, go on to achieve the accreditation.”

Employers have been involved every step of the way in the creation of the assessment and accreditation system and for the first time their needs are truly being met. During the assessment process training providers are assessed against two key criteria; provider responsiveness to employer needs and provider excellence in a particular vocational area.

Examples of training providers who have applied to receive this accreditation so far are colleges, universities, commercial and publicly funded training organisations and large employers. Including City College Norwich, there are currently 31 training providers in the UK who have reached the new standard.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

Training Quality Standard

The Training Quality Standard is a voluntary quality mark available to any type of training provider. It complements the Framework for Excellence (FFE), the LSC's new compulsory, annual, quality assessment, as it contains an assessment of employer responsiveness.

A unique attribute of the Training Quality Standard is that it is not attached to public funding or investment and is open to both publicly and privately funded organisations

providing workforce training solutions at all levels, including Higher Education, Apprenticeships and Train to Gain as well as bespoke and non accredited training.

The Training Quality Standard will feed into National Skills Academies as they will work with providers who have achieved the new standard as their delivery partners.

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.

Employers who would like advice on their training needs in Norfolk can contact City College Norwich on 01603 773773.

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