

Norfolk training providers receive new standard for training excellence

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Norfolk training providers at City College Norwich, Q Training and National Construction College, have all achieved a *Training Quality Standard* (TQS) in recognition of delivering high quality training to employers in the county.

The Standard highlights the training providers' excellent track records in responding to employer needs and their ability to offer high quality training at a time and place to suit employers. The providers have also been commended for making it easy for employers in Norfolk 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 and excitement for City College Norwich. In September we were granted outline planning permission for a world class campus-wide redevelopment, this following the news that we are the first provider in the country to be granted Awarding Body Status, enabling us to work with employers to accredit their own training provision; further evidence of our commitment to working closely and efficiently with employers."

Jan Coates, Standards Manager of the National Construction College said: "We are delighted to have been awarded the standard but it would not have been possible to

achieve if it wasn't for the outstanding commitment, 'can do' attitude and employer focussed culture that all our staff at the National Construction College demonstrate on a daily basis".

"The achievement of the Training Quality Standard provides a formal recognition of their valuable contribution in meeting the training needs of our customers".

Joyce Newham, Q Training Quality Assurance Director, said: "In the spring of this year we found that we could apply for the Training Quality Standard under the small company pilot scheme and decided to go for it. The journey has been very testing, the Standard was very demanding but we are so pleased that Q Training has achieved so much so quickly.

"We had evidence of very positive employer and learner feedback, showing how our training has had significant impact for each business. Our success is due to our professional and dedicated team of trainers, verifiers, assessors, support staff and above all the learners and their employers."

The *Training Quality Standard* was officially launched by Skills minister David Lammy on 8th May this year and has been developed to give employers a benchmark for choosing training provision and sets providers apart from the competition.

Graham Brough, Area Director for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Norfolk, said: "I would like to congratulate all of the providers in our county for being recognised and rewarded for their exceptional training services. Acquiring the *Training Quality Standard* demonstrates a consistent effort by the providers to deliver excellent training to employers across the Eastern region. We are determined to make high quality training accessible for all by bringing training providers and employers together to deliver economically valuable skills and qualifications, and I hope that many more providers in Norfolk will eventually go on to achieve the standard."

Employers have been involved every step of the way in the creation of the assessment and accreditation system for the Training Quality Standard. 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.

Training providers who have applied to receive this accreditation so far include colleges, universities, commercial and publicly funded training organisations and large employers. Including National Construction College, there are currently 60 training providers in the UK who have reached the new standard and a further 200 who are currently being assessed.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

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.