

## West Suffolk College recognised for excellence

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has accredited West Suffolk College for delivering high quality training to employers in the region. The college is one of the first training providers in the Eastern region to reach the new standards set by the LSC.

The new standards highlight excellence in provider responsiveness to employer needs and provider excellence in a particular vocational area. Training providers in the UK who reach these new standards will receive a voluntary quality mark of accreditation which will be recognised by employers.

Judith Mobbs, Area Director for LSC Suffolk, said: "I would like to congratulate West Suffolk College for being the first training provider in our county to be accredited for its high quality services to employers. This outstanding achievement demonstrates a consistent effort on the college's part to provide excellent training providing services to employers in Suffolk. Training is essential to any successful enterprise and we are determined to make high quality skills training accessible for all. I am pleased that West Suffolk College has facilitated this and is being rewarded with a mark of excellence that employers can trust."

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 West Suffolk College, there are currently 26 training providers in the UK who have reached the new standard. This figure is likely to grow as more providers continue to apply and be accessed.

- ENDS -

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### **Notes to editors**

Training providers who have been recognised with the accreditation are:

- Basingstoke College of Technology
- DC Training & Development Services Ltd
- Hadlow College
- Hospitality Training Partnership (HTP)
- London College of Beauty Therapy
- Newbury College
- Newham College
- Reaseheath College
- South Devon College
- Sutton Coldfield College
- Thatcham Training
- Uxbridge College
- Chichester College
- Cornwall College
- Happy Computers
- Leeds College of Building
- NETA Training Group
- Newcastle College
- City of Sunderland College
- Derby College
- Lewisham College
- Norwich City College
- Tameside College
- Wakefield College
- West Cheshire College
- West Suffolk College

A key development of the standard from previous accreditation schemes is that it is not attached to public funding or investment and will be open to both publicly and privately funded organisations providing higher and further education.

### **CoVEs (Centres of Vocational Excellence) and the new standard:**

CoVEs increase the provider's capacity to deliver vocational or sector based training. They often involve a partnership between LSC funded providers. The CoVE Programme will run until 2010.

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

The new 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.

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