

New training quality kite mark launched to help London employers identify the best training for them

Training Quality Standard brings trainers and employers together to deliver the training that employers really want

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Employers and training providers have joined forces today to formally launch an innovative new standard, designed and endorsed by employers, which will recognise and highlight excellence amongst training providers.

The *Training Quality Standard* was developed to give employers a simple benchmark for choosing training provision. Achieving the standard demonstrates providers' ability to offer high quality training at a time and place to suit employers – setting them apart from the competition and making it easy for employers to find the right training solutions for them.

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 really being met. During the assessment process training providers are assessed against two key criteria:

- provider responsiveness to employer needs
- provider excellence in a particular vocational area

Skills minister David Lammy today officially launched the *Training Quality Standard* at an event at the Hilton London Metropole – congratulating 31 new providers from across the country who have recently achieved the standard. Supporters of the new accreditation system who attended the event included the Confederation of British Industry, Regional

Development Agencies, the Association of Learning Providers, Associated of Colleges, Sector Skills Councils and DIUS representatives.

Speaking at the launch, David Lammy said: “I am delighted to congratulate the providers who have achieved the *Training Quality Standard*. Training is at the heart of any successful enterprise and by bringing training providers and employers together to deliver economically valuable skills and qualifications we will make high quality training accessible for all. The *Training Quality Standard* will be a mark that employers can trust and I hope many more providers will, in time, go on to achieve it.”

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.

Jaine Clarke, Director of Skills for Employers, LSC, said: “Crucial to increasing employer investment in the skills of their workforce is the ability to identify and select training providers who can deliver high quality, flexible and responsive provision that is directly relevant and addresses the skills gaps in their business - the *Training Quality Standard* will take the guesswork and the pain out of the process for employers.

“I hope the achievement of these employers and training providers motivates others to follow suit and work towards achieving the *Training Quality Standard*.”

One training provider who has already achieved the standard is Lewisham College. The college was keen to be among the first to apply for assessment against the *Training Quality Standard* as they feel it offers something the training industry has long needed to identify good provision.

Mark Cook, Director of Business Development at Lewisham College said of achieving the standard: “The focus on impacts and outcomes, as well as structures and processes,

meant that by testing ourselves against it, we could identify areas of good practice, as well as areas for improvement.”

The *Training Quality Standard* launched informally in 2007 and has been extremely well-received to date by the sector, with over 70 providers having started the application process and 31 having received it.

- ENDS -

Notes to editors

Provider	Approval status
Barnet College - London	Approved
Basingstoke College of Technology	Approved with excellence in Construction
Chichester College	Approved with excellence in Construction & Engineering
City of Sunderland College	Approved with excellence in ICT
Cornwall College	Approved with excellence in ICT
DC Training & Development Services Ltd	Approved
Derby College	Approved
Hadlow College	Approved
Happy Computers - London	Approved
Hospitality Training Partnership (HTP)	Approved
Isle of Wight College	Approved
Leeds College of Building	Approved with excellence in Construction and Building Services Engineering
Lewisham College - London	Approved with excellence in ICT
London College of Beauty Therapy	Approved
Manchester College of Arts and Technology	Approved with excellence in Construction & Automotive Skills
Midland Group Training Services Limited	Approved with excellence in Engineering
NETA Training Trust	Approved with excellence in Engineering
Newbury College	Approved
Newcastle College	Approved with excellence in Construction
Newham College - London	Approved
Norwich City College	Approved with excellence in ICT

Reaseheath College	Approved
South Devon College	Approved with excellence in Construction
Sutton Coldfield College	Approved with excellence in Engineering
Tameside College	Approved with excellence in Engineering
Telford College	Approved with excellence in Engineering
Thatcham Training	Approved
Uxbridge College - London	Approved
Wakefield College	Approved
West Cheshire College	Approved with excellence in Engineering
West Suffolk College	Approved with excellence in Construction & Engineering

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.

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.