

## **Training Providers in South London set the example for local employers**

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Training Providers in South London have taken the lead and made a public commitment to train their staff. The event, recently organised by the Learning and Skills Council London South, saw 11 local training providers set an example to other local employers by signing the Skills Pledge, committing to support their employees to develop their skills and fulfil their potential.

The Skills Pledge, a government lead initiative, is a public commitment by the leadership of an organisation to support its staff to gain basic literacy and numeracy skills including and a first level 2 qualification (equal to 5 GCSEs at A\* to C).

Vic Grimes, Learning and Skills Area Director for London South, said:

“Research shows that one of the keys to a productive, successful business is having a skilled and competent workforce. The Skills Pledge is an opportunity for the leaders of a business or organisation to show publicly and demonstrably the importance they place on investing in the skills of their people. We would like to thank the organisations who attended today’s event, and to those who committed to staff development and commend them as role models for other local employers.”

Christina Conroy OBE Principal & Chief Executive of Richmond Adult Community College said:

With over 800 staff, Richmond Adult & Community College is a large employer with a diverse workforce of full and part-time employees. We were pleased to sign up to the Skills Pledge as it represents our public commitment to training and development of the workforce at the College. Our investment in training at all levels has enabled us to manage the talent of our organization and create effective succession plans which have resulted in year on year bottom line performance and an OFSTED Outstanding rating.

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### **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.

#### **What is the Skills Pledge?**

An initiative launched by the government in 2007, the Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all its employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2 (equivalent to 5 good GCSEs). The purpose is to ensure that all staff are skilled, competent and able to make a full contribution to the success of the company/organisation. The Pledge can be given by the Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, owner/manager or other Board member, on behalf of the organisation. It is a corporate commitment covering the whole company/organisation. For those employees who do not already have a full Level 2 qualification, the Government will provide funding to help them gain basic literacy and numeracy skills as well as their first full Level 2 qualification.

The Skills Pledge is open to all employers of all sizes in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

For more information visit: <http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/skillspledge/>

The following South London training providers signed the Skills Pledge at the event, which took place at the Croydon Hilton on 15 May:

Kelsey Park Sports College  
Jancett Organisation  
Hawk Training  
Community Systems  
South London Business  
TRP  
South London Learning Consortium + sub contractors  
Orpington College  
Carshalton College  
NESCOT  
RACC

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