

## **New accreditation system launched to address UK skills gaps**

*Training Quality Standard* brings trainers and employers together to develop skills that employers really want

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Training providers and employers have come together today to formally launch a new certification system that will deliver specialist excellence in training provision to help address the UK's skills gaps.

The *Training Quality Standard* certification system has been designed to recognise and celebrate organisations delivering the best training and development solutions to employers. The *Training Quality Standard* will address the need for 'economically valuable' skills as raised in the Leitch Review of Skills which found that many qualifications currently on offer do not train learners in the skills employers actually want and need.

The Learning and Skills Council believes that the *Training Quality Standard* will help to tackle the current mismatch between the competencies required by employers, and those the qualifications system provides. The system was developed and is accredited by employers, ensuring that the criteria set for achieving the standard actually reflect what employers want.

Skills Minister, David Lammy today officially launched the *Training Quality Standard* at an event held 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, Sector Skills Councils and DIUS representatives.

Speaking at the launch, David Lammy said: “I am delighted to congratulate the 31 new 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 qualifications we will make high quality skills training accessible for all. The Training Quality Standard highlights excellence in training provider responsiveness and will be a mark that employers can trust.”

The *Training Quality Standard* highlights excellence in the two most important areas as identified by employers

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

A key development of the standard from previous accreditation system 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.

Jaine Clarke, Director of Communications, LSC, said: “Crucial to creating skills that employers really need is a reform of the existing qualifications system, to ensure that training given by employers and training providers is directly relevant and addresses the skills gaps in the marketplace.

“There are numerous benefits of this new standard to both employers and providers such as increasing the quality of training provision, while encouraging employers to invest more in training. I hope this motivates others to follow suit and work towards achieving the new standard.”

One of those who has achieved the standard, Kevin Phelps, Operations Director, Land Rover said: “Going through the process of achieving the Training Quality Standard has

delivered real benefits for us as it allowed us to step back and assess the way we deliver training. It is easy to continue doing things the same way but the standard forces you to look at all aspects of training delivery and make improvements.”

The *Training Quality Standard* launched informally in 2007 and has been extremely well-received to date by the sector, with over 50 providers having applied for the standard and 31 having received it.

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### Notes to editors

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

Norwich City College	Certified with excellence in ICT
Reaseheath College	Certified
South Devon College	Certified with excellence in Construction
Sutton Coldfield College	Certified with excellence in Engineering
Tameside College	Certified with excellence in Engineering
Telford College	Certified with excellence in Engineering
Thatcham Training	Certified
Uxbridge College	Certified
Wakefield College	Certified
West Cheshire College	Certified with excellence in Engineering
West Suffolk College	Certified 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.