

## ***NETA TRAINING GROUP RECOGNISED FOR EXCELLENCE***

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NETA Training Group in Stockton has been recognised for delivering high quality training to employers by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) at a special ceremony in London.

Recognised as being one of the first providers to achieve this new voluntary accreditation, the college was among 22 providers from across the UK to be honoured at the London event.

The new standard is an assessment framework and accreditation process which has been designed to recognise and celebrate the best organisations delivering training and development solutions to employers.

It highlights excellence in the two areas that employers have advised the LSC are most important to them:

- Part A - provider responsiveness to employer needs
- Part B - provider excellence in a particular vocational area.

NETA Training Group achieved both Part A and Part B accreditations, and was among only a handful of training organisations to reach this double standard. The college was recognised for its expertise in Engineering.

Other North East providers recognised at the event were City of Sunderland College and Newcastle College.

David Lammy MP, Skills Minister, said: "Training is essential to any successful enterprise and we are determined to make high quality skills training accessible for all. The new standard highlights excellence in provider responsiveness and will be a mark that employers can trust."

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. In addition, accreditation is verified by employers, meaning that the criteria for achieving the standard reflects their needs.

Chris Roberts, Regional Director, LSC North East, said: "It is fantastic that NETA Training Group achieved the full accreditation in this new standard. This is a positive sign for the further education sector as training organisations aim to improve their offer to respond to the needs of employers.

"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."

The standard has been extremely well-received to date by the sector, with over 50 training providers having applied, including colleges, universities, commercial and publicly funded training organisations, and several large employers. Feedback from training providers involved in the testing phase of the standard has also been very positive. Almost all reported that the process of going through the standard

had sharpened their approach to working with employers and demonstrated to them where they need to make changes to better meet the needs of employers.

Frank Ramsay, Chief Executive, NETA Training Group, said: "NETA Training Group is delighted to be one of the first providers in the country to achieve this new voluntary accreditation. We are proud to be associated with the Learning and Skills Council's ongoing campaign because it underpins our ongoing commitment to training and development."

***ENDS***

Notes to editors

**Recognised providers 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  
West Suffolk College  
Norwich City College  
West Cheshire College

**Further accredited training providers:**

Derby College  
Lewisham College  
Tameside College  
Wakefield College

**CoVEs 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.

**Skills campaign:**

In July 2007, the LSC and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) launched the skills campaign. The campaign - Our future. It's in our hands - urges people to take control of their future by investing in skills. It is the most ambitious marketing and communications campaign of its kind and over a three to five year period aims to bring about the cultural change needed to improve the attitudes and aspirations of employers and individuals to learning and skills across England.

**Media contact:**

Ann Barnes, Regional Press Officer, 0191 492 6355, email [ann.barnes@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:ann.barnes@lsc.gov.uk)