

Skills Minister visits North West college principals

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Skills Minister Phil Hope recently visited Greater Merseyside to meet with college principals from across the North West and the Director of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Greater Merseyside to discuss the Further Education (FE) Reform White Paper Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances.

The White Paper, published in March 2006 by the Department for Education and Skills (DFES), sets out a series of reforms which will raise skills and qualification levels for young people and adults to world standards.

The meeting which took place at Liverpool Community College provided an opportunity for the principals to discuss their views on the White paper with the Minister. The wide ranging discussion also covered the role of the 6th Form Colleges and the recent changes to adult funding.

Later in the day, the Minister launched Train to Gain in the North West during a visit to the LSC Greater Merseyside offices in Liverpool where he met with North West Train to Gain brokers, employers and training providers. Train to Gain is a new service funded by the LSC to help businesses get the training they need to succeed. It offers employers impartial advice and easy access to quality training, match training needs with training providers and ensure that training is delivered to meet employer's needs.

Ends

Photo: left to right, Sara Mogel, Principal West Cheshire College, Pauline Waterhouse, Principal Blackpool and The Fylde College, Steve Pegg, Principal Cardinal Newman College, Phil Hope MP, Maureen Mellor, Vice Principal Liverpool Community College, Wally Brown CBE, Principal Liverpool Community College, Rob Peacock, Principal Carmel 6th Form College, Geoff Higgins, Principal Ashton 6th Form College.

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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 planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

Top Level Messages

- We plan and invest in high quality education and training for young people and adults that will build a skilled and competitive workforce.
- We help employers to get the training and skills they need for their business.
- We are transforming the further education sector to meet the needs of employers and the local community.
- We are committed to improving learning opportunities for everyone.