

New training quality kite mark launched to help South West employers

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Employers and leading training providers have joined forces to officially launch an innovative new standard which recognises and highlights excellence in training provision.

The *Training Quality Standard* was developed to give employers a simple benchmark for choosing training providers. 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.

South Devon College and Cornwall College are the only two colleges in the South West to receive the new accreditation.

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 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.

Paul Lucken, Regional Director of Skills for LSC South West, said: “Employers need a skills and qualifications system that ensures that training 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 identifying the quality of training provision, and making sure it is responsive to employer and learner needs. I hope this motivates others to follow suit and work towards achieving the new standard.”

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

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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.