The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) today reveals the 100 institutions that will pilot the Framework for Excellence. The Framework for Excellence is a new system developed to rate a college’s performance and the quality of its provision. This is a key element of the LSC’s *agenda for change* programme, which aims to raise the reputation of the FE system by encouraging excellence, economic success and simplification. This pilot programme follows extensive consultation and testing, and will run from summer 2007 to summer 2008.

The 100 pilot institutions have been selected as a representative, statistical sample from a cross-section of the national FE system, comprising organisations of differing sizes, types of provision, and levels of performance. The sample group also includes a number of National Employer Service providers and those that have recently been involved in mergers, to ensure that providers that form part of a consortium are represented.

Henry Ball, LSC South East Regional Director and Senior Responsible Officer for the Framework said:

“This is an extremely exciting time in the development of the Framework. The enthusiasm and support of providers as we enter the piloting phase of the project is crucial to its success.

“We remain enormously indebted to the individuals and institutions that are committed to ensuring that the Framework for Excellence is a success, and gives providers, employers, learners and the wider FE system what it wants and needs.”
The Minister for Further, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning, Bill Rammell MP said:

"Further Education makes a huge contribution to our economy and society. This important Framework underpins the sweeping FE reforms we announced last year and will help us realise Lord Leitch’s vision for skills set out for our future competitiveness.

“This measure will better enable colleges and providers to manage their own improvement. Taken with the QIA Improvement Strategy and our intervention policy Framework for Excellence adds up to a powerful support package, showing colleges and providers where they are and helping them get to where they want to be.”

From summer 2008, the first version of the Framework for Excellence will apply to all colleges and work-based learning providers, and therefore it is these providers that form the majority of the institutions in the pilot list. Colleges and providers not selected for the pilot are encouraged to follow the development of the Framework for Excellence closely, as it will eventually be the principal mechanism by which all LSC-funded provision is assessed (with some exceptions).

Also, from the summer of 2008, a second pilot programme will focus more widely on other types of provision, such as specialist colleges, adult education and voluntary sector providers.

For the full list of 100 pilot institutions that will be applying the Framework for Excellence performance indicators in 2007/08, please visit: ffe.lsc.gov.uk.

-ENDS-
Notes to Editors

LSC
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.

Framework for Excellence
The Framework for Excellence is a quality and performance assessment framework. It will set out areas and levels of performance that colleges and other providers need to achieve in order to deliver the highest quality provision to learners and employers. It will give learners and employers a clearer choice of college and provider. It is a key part of the LSC’s commitment to raise the quality and improve the choice of learning opportunities for all young people; to raise the skills of the nation, and to raise the performance of a world-class further education system.

- FfE will provide a single, unified framework for assessing and reporting achievement in all key areas of performance
- The Framework will lead to better and more relevant outcomes for learners and employers, and a better reputation for the FE system


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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