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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

SKILLSACTIVE ADDRESSES TRAINING NEEDS IN SOUTH WALES

SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure and Learning, is providing solutions to the training needs of employees in South West Wales.

Covering Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and Caravan industries, SkillsActive has set up a 'Learning Hub' at Coleg Glan Hafren – Cardiff's largest college – to start to address the skills gaps and training needs in South West Wales.

The Learning Hub will offer solutions to issues, such as; access to training, engaging supply with demand on a local level and the fundamental issues of coordination and communication.

Richard Tobutt, Programme Manager for SkillsActive for Wales said; "Matching supply with demand has been identified as a major requirement for employers within Wales.

"The development of the Learning Hub concept within our Sector provides a vehicle to address the skills and productivity agenda throughout the nation."

The Hub at Coleg Glan Hafren is a six month pilot, with the view developing similar Hubs in both Mid and North Wales. The future establishment of Learning Hubs will allow small businesses and social enterprises to come together to draw on specific advice and support, allowing them to meet both their skills and organisational needs.

Andy Evans, Business Development Manager at Coleg Glan Hafren said; "We are extremely pleased to have secured this project and look forward to the challenge ahead.

"The early response from employers is very positive and we hope to broker partnerships with a variety of training providers in order to meet local needs."

For more information about Learning Hubs, and other SkillsActive projects in Wales, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and the Caravan industries.
2. SkillsActive's mission statement is: "To ensure best quality, best business and best value within the Sector to achieve its economic and social potential."
3. SSCs are employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. SSCs provide employers with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sector's skills and business needs. In return they receive substantial public investment and greater dialogue with government departments across the UK.
4. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com