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

SKILLSACTIVE LAUNCH PILATES STANDARDS

Today sees the launch of the first ever National Occupational Standards for Pilates in the UK.

Following an extensive consultation process with Pilates organisations, Pilates teachers, trainers and employers across the UK, SkillsActive is pleased to finally launch the new standard for Pilates – a first for the industry within the UK.

Now official approval has been received, the industry will enjoy a Pilates specific standard that will be recognised across the whole of the health and fitness industry, and can now be used to work towards membership of the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) at Level 3.

Lee Buck, SkillsActive's qualifications and standards officer said; "We are so pleased that these standards have now been approved. The whole process has been years in the making and could not have been achieved without the support of many Pilates training organisations, Pilates experts, teachers and employers; without them the development of the standard would not have happened.

"This is a huge step forward for the fitness industry, we will be able to recognise Pilates training providers who deliver quality training that meets the nationally agreed standards and in turn this will allow fitness professionals to access quality training in the discipline of Pilates leading to an upskilling of the workforce."

Lynne Robinson, director Body Control Pilates Association said; "This standard is a major milestone for Pilates worldwide. Pilates organisations in the UK have spent several years helping to develop its content and the result will be hugely beneficial for Pilates enthusiasts across the country. This standard, and the list of qualified teachers on the Register, will significantly help to ensure the quality, safety and effectiveness of Pilates teaching. I wholeheartedly support this important initiative."

The approval of the standard will lead to the recognition of qualified and skilled Pilates professionals across the UK. There are several organisations around the world that have developed a certification process for Pilates professionals, however SkillsActive is the first to have consulted with the industry to develop National Occupational Standards for Pilates.

Michael King from the Pilates Institute said; "Pilates Institute welcomes the new Level 3 Pilates Qualification as now instructors who have been doing ongoing comprehensive training can be acknowledged and fully represented within the industry."

REPs registrar, Cliff Collins said; The Register of Exercise Professionals is looking forward to working closely with the leading Pilates training providers to help make sure the hundreds of Pilates teachers can join REPs. These Level 3 Standards are an important addition to the

qualification structure which will help enable operators and members of the public to understand and identify which Pilates teachers who are properly qualified.”

For more information about the approvals process, and to obtain the new standards, visit:
www.skillsactive.com/pilatesandyoga

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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
5. SkillsActive is currently developing a Sector Skills Agreement for the Active Leisure and Learning Sector which will define the Sector’s skills needs and ultimately form an agreement between employers, Government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years.