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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **South West Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training**

SWitch CETT – a partnership of over forty organisations co-ordinated by Learning South West – has been named as one of the prestigious Centres for Excellence in Teacher Training to be established across the country.

The Government is establishing eleven Centres for Excellence in Teacher Training (CETTs) nationally in a bid to accelerate the process of developing and sharing best practice and to provide models for improving the quality of teacher training and to support training providers.

Following a rigorous selection process, examining 20 bids in detail, The Quality Improvement Agency recently announced SWitch CETT was one of two regional CETTs.

The SWitch CETT partnership of 40 organisations represents the breath and diversity of the South West learning and skills sector with all members sharing a common commitment to improve the quality of teacher training.

The partnership will focus on two key areas, Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and Continuous Professional Development (CPD), to deliver their agreed priorities for the first year.

These priorities are:

- Improving the processes and practices of initial assessment, induction and ongoing support for teacher trainees.
- Developing effective models for using Individual Learning Plans within ITT programmes.
- Improving the quality of mentor support in teacher training programmes.

- Establishing and supporting networks of teachers, assessors and teacher trainers to share good practice.
- Developing a SWitch portal to promote ways that new technology can support both learning and the dissemination of good practice.
- Gather evaluation data relating to ITT programmes around the region and use this to critically evaluate. This will include engaging trainees in building the SWitch community of practice by carrying out trainee evaluation surveys across the region.

Part of SWitch's work will involve commissioning projects to meet these priorities, encouraging groups of its member organisations to develop projects collaboratively. As well as Initial Teacher Training, SWitch is keen to build on Learning South West's established Continuous Professional Development programme to develop quality improvement and share learning.

Learning South West's Chief-Executive Tim Boyes-Watson said: "A core element of the SWitch vision is the commitment that all our members have to collaboration and diversity. This is a primary strength of the Centre and a key aspect in how the partnership will work to foster quality improvement and excellence."

**Ends**

*For further information or to arrange interviews please contact PRO Beth Jerrett on 07969355459 or 01460-220147 or email [jerrettbeth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jerrettbeth@yahoo.co.uk)*

### **Notes to Editors**

- Learning South West is based in Bishops Hull, near Taunton. It helps organisations including local education authorities, further education colleges and voluntary sector organisations to learn together.
- Find out more about Learning South West at [www.learning-southwest.org.uk](http://www.learning-southwest.org.uk).
- The six SWitch aims are:
  1. To create a model for the improvement of advice and guidance, recruitment, initial assessment, induction, and support of new teachers by their employers, ITT providers and others.
  2. Develop strategies across those involved in ITT, which disseminate good practice and facilitate quality improvements in the progress, assessment and review of the practical teaching skills of trainee teachers, including in their specialist teaching area and their confidence at embedding literacy, language and numeracy.

3. Improve the capacity of teachers, assessors and teacher trainers to use diverse methods and innovatory approaches in a safe and inclusive manner, which will equip them for the increasingly diverse range of learners and contexts in the South West.
  4. Identify, implement and evaluate the ways that new technology can support learning and the dissemination of good practice.
  5. Ensure there is a robust and rigorous monitoring and evaluation process for all SWitch activities and that this links to the broader monitoring and evaluation processes operating within providers and the sector as a whole.
  6. Establish SWitch as an effectively operating organisation, working towards focused and clearly defined priorities in ITT and CPD, this is underpinned by a business development strategy which ensures its sustainability within a tapered funding mode of operation.
- Members of SWitch CETT are:

*Lead Organisation: Learning South West*

University of Exeter, Bath Spa University, University of the West of England, City of Bristol College, The Learning Curve, Bridgewater College, Filton College, Devon Adult and Community Learning, Norton Radstock College, JISC Regional Support Centre South West, South West Learning and Skills Research Network, Dorset Adult Education Service, Exeter College, Gloucestershire City Council, Kingston Maurward College, South Devon College, South West Learning Providers Network, Cornwall Adult Education Service, Yeovil College, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Stroud College, Association of Colleges South West, Strode College, Accountancy plus Training Ltd, Royal Forest of Dean College, City of Bath College, Weston College, Gloucestershire County Council Community and Adult Care Directorate, RNIB, Exeter CSV, Royal Artillery Centre for Personal Development, South West Regional Skills for Life Unit, Gloucester Skills Unit (PDC), The College of St Mark and St John (Marjon), SW Observatory and Intelligence Module (SLIM), City and Guilds SW, GLOSCAT, Weymouth College, Enable Assessment, Edexcel, SW Regional Skills Partnership.

- The second regional CETT is the Peninsular CETT led by the University of Plymouth.

