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Build UK and Collab Group to Draw Young People into Construction

Build UK and Collab Group are delighted to announce the development of 'Bridge into Construction', a new further education course to get young people started in construction.

The one year course, which will be piloted by seven colleges across the country, will provide a consistent level of training and competence and equip students with the introductory skills they need to embark on an apprenticeship in construction.

Combining Build UK's representation of the construction supply chain and focus on improving the industry's image with the expertise of Collab Group, who represent 35 of the largest colleges and college groups across the country and seek to transform the UK economy through the delivery of high-quality technical and professional education, the partnership has the potential to fundamentally change the behaviour of the construction and further education sectors.

The course will be employer-led and focussed on increasing the number of construction apprenticeships, while boosting employment opportunities for students completing the course by ensuring they are site-ready.

The pilot will also allow the construction and further education sectors to implement an industry vocational route at least four years ahead of the Government timetable set out in the Post-16 Skills Plan.

Build UK Chief Executive **Suzannah Nichol MBE** said:

"Our aim is to inspire young people to choose a career in construction, but we can't do it on our own. Build UK's partnership with Collab Group is a game changer; we will develop a course which is employer led, run by the UK's most progressive colleges, and creates opportunities to meet the needs of employers and young people."

Ian Pretty, Chief Executive of Collab Group, said:

"Collab Group Colleges already make a significant contribution to the training needs of the construction industry and we are delighted to work with Build UK on this exciting project. This partnership highlights the need and opportunity for FE to engage with industry on a national level. The construction sector is vital to the long-term growth and productivity of the UK economy, it is a critical pathway in the Government's Post-16 Skills Plan and we welcome this opportunity to provide more young people with a way into the industry."

PRESS RELEASE



~ Ends ~

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Notes to Editors

1. Build UK provides a strong collective voice for the construction industry by bringing together Clients, Main Contractors and Trade Associations representing over 11,500 Specialist Contractors - www.BuildUK.org.
2. To find out more about Build UK's priorities, see the [Build UK Action Plan](#).
3. For further information on Collab Group, visit the [Collab Group website](#).
4. For further information on the Government's Post-16 Skills Plan, visit the [Government's website](#).