

PRESS RELEASE

Sodexo launches partnership with The Skills Network to raise awareness of mental health

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Sodexo, the world's largest services company, has launched a strategic partnership with leading training provider The Skills Network to improve their employees' awareness of mental health.

Sodexo has teamed up with The Skills Network, which specialises in online distance learning, to offer the free training to employees working in its schools and universities business across the UK and Ireland.

The new initiative aims to develop an enhanced understanding of mental wellbeing among Sodexo employees, who can then better identify the signs and symptoms of mental ill health among their colleagues and potentially even students.

The number of students seeking mental health support services rose by 50% between 2012 and 2017, and in 2015/2016 more than 15,000 first-year students reported a mental health problem.

Laura Burgess, HR Director for Sodexo Schools and Universities, said: *"Our schools and universities employees have the privilege of working with young people every day. With 1 in 10 young people having a mental health diagnosis, we feel it's our duty to support our employees by giving them opportunities to better understand this important topic.*

"While this isn't about diagnosing mental health illness, the training will help our employees spot the signs of potential problems so that they can raise it with a student's school or university, or signpost their colleagues to support within Sodexo.

"We believe having a better understanding of mental health will have a positive impact on the young people we work with and our team members."

James Earl, Sales Director at The Skills Network, said: *"We're delighted to launch such a powerful and meaningful project with one of the world's largest employers. We believe that what we have embarked on will make a huge difference to the awareness of mental health within the organisation and look forward to seeing the positive results it can bring to all stakeholders within Sodexo."*

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About Sodexo UK and Ireland

Sodexo employs around 34,000 people, and delivers services that improve the quality of life to clients at some 1,850 locations in the corporate, energy & resources, healthcare, education, leisure, justice and defence sectors. Services range from catering, cleaning, reception to asset management, security, laboratory and grounds maintenance services, enabling clients to focus on their core business.

Sodexo Benefits and Rewards Services in the UK provides benefit and reward services such as SayShopping vouchers; public benefits; and employee benefits such as childcare vouchers and engagement surveys.

Sodexo Group

Founded in Marseille in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organisational performance. Operating in 72 countries, Sodexo serves 100 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services.

Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over more than 50 years of experience: from foodservices, reception, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from services and programs fostering employees' engagement to solutions that simplify and optimise their mobility and expenses management, to in-home assistance, childcare centres and concierge services. Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business model and its ability to continuously develop and engage its 460,000 employees throughout the world.

Sodexo is included in the CAC 40, FTSE 4 Good and DJSI indices.

Key figures (as of August 31, 2018)

20.4 billion euro in consolidated revenues

460,000 employees

19th largest employer worldwide

72 countries

100 million consumers served daily

13.5 billion euro in market capitalization (as of January 9, 2018)

About The Skills Network

The Skills Network (TSN) is a private training provider based in Selby, North Yorkshire, specialising in delivering online training to employers, educators and individuals. With over 100 distance learning courses, TSN provides training across subjects such as accounting and finance, leadership and management, childcare and education, health and well-being, retail and hospitality, and health and social care.

TSN is partnered with several national awarding organisations and over 40 Further Education Colleges, supporting over 30,000 learners and 5,000 employers to access nationally recognised qualifications every year.