

**Welcome to the September edition of the OCN Eastern Region newsletter. Much has happened over the summer although we are still waiting for the final confirmation of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).**

**As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.**

## **In this edition:**

- **QCF Update**
- **STOP PRESS**
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- **Updates from OCN Eastern Region**

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You can also [forward the newsletter](#) to a colleague.

## **QCF Updates**

NOCN has published a brief explanatory leaflet outlining the QCF and what it means for OCN Recognised Centres. [Click here](#) to request your copy.

The regulatory arrangements for the QCF have now been published on the [Ofqual](#) website. This marks a significant milestone in the development of the QCF. The arrangements provide the means to support the development of the QCF from a set of test and trial arrangements to full implementation. As news develops over the autumn we will keep you informed.

**STOP PRESS \*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\* STOP PRESS**

NOCN is delighted to inform you that confirmation has been received from Asset Skills that the NOCN Qualifications in Progression at Entry and Level 1 have been approved as vocational qualifications for the purposes of the FLT Progression Pathways for academic year 08-09.

The QCA has also confirmed that the qualifications will be included in the vocational strands of the three post-16 Progression Pathways in the next edition of the FLT qualifications catalogue issued by the QCA.

Asset Skills has also endorsed the qualifications as Employability qualifications. This is likely to be of benefit to you, our learning providers, in terms of funding eligibility in the coming year.

More detailed news will follow.

## **News from Recognised Centres - CATCH UP: Helping Struggling Learners**

Catch Up Literacy recently celebrated ten years of helping struggling readers at a national conference held at Bricket Wood Conference Centre, St Albans. The sister intervention programme, Catch Up

Numeracy, was also launched at the event.

Catch Up Literacy, a one-on-one intervention programme in schools designed to boost the literacy of children, estimates that it has now helped 115,000 pupils to improve their reading.

The literacy intervention programme is used to support struggling readers in more than 4,000 schools across the UK and in clusters of schools by more than 60 local authorities. The average reading age gain is 18.76 months following 7.85 months of Catch Up.

Since 2002, the not-for-profit charity Catch Up has trained 7,400 staff to deliver Catch Up Literacy, 4,400 of whom are teaching or learning support assistants. Many receive an Open College Network (OCN) accredited Level 2 Catch Up Literacy qualification on completion of the course.

Catch Up Numeracy, launched this summer, has been used in 89 schools in 17 local authorities during its development and also demonstrates excellent results.

Pupils gain seven months in mathematics after only six hours of additional numeracy support (over a period of 5 months), according to new research.

The findings come in a consultation submission to the government's review of the teaching of mathematics in primary schools and early years led by Sir Peter Williams from the new intervention programme. Research and evaluation of the new programme in the initial stages indicates significant potential for tackling the problem of a child struggling with mathematics.



Please visit [www.catchup.org.uk](http://www.catchup.org.uk) for more information on Catch Up Literacy and Catch Up Numeracy or OCN accredited Level 2 Catch Up Literacy training.

You can also contact Julie Lawes, Director, Catch Up, on 01842 752297 or [info@catchup.org.uk](mailto:info@catchup.org.uk)

## Latest NOCN News Qualifications Update

### **The NOCN Level 2 and Level 3 Award and Certificate in Self Employment and Enterprise.**

These qualifications were announced in our last newsletter. They are aimed at learners already running a business, and as such may not be appropriate for use in schools, prisons and similar environments. The next phase - with a focus on units for learners not yet in a position to run a business - is awaiting approval. In the meantime there has been much interest from recognised centres in the units from phase two. In response OCN Eastern Region has locally coded these units for use whilst waiting for full qualification approval.

Contact your Development Manager for more information.

### **Helping you make the most of your money: a joint action plan for financial capability**

This recently launched initiative includes government funding for personal finance education in schools. NOCN Financial Literacy qualifications, for learners 14+, offer a good fit for the teaching of personal financial skills in schools. For more information please see the FSA newsletter: [http://www.fsa.gov.uk/financial\\_capability/pdfs/newsletter13.pdf](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/financial_capability/pdfs/newsletter13.pdf)

**NOCN Level 2 Certificate in Employability:** The qualification guide is now available for download on the [NOCN website](#).

**NOCN Level 3 Award in Tackling Substance Misuse:** NOCN has received notification from the QCA that the end date for this qualification has been extended to 30.08.2009. The updated Qualification Guide is available on the [NOCN website](#).

**NOCN Suite of Creative Skills Qualifications:** NOCN has received notification from the QCA that the end date for this suite of qualifications has been extended to 30.12.2010. The updated Qualification Guide is available on the [NOCN website](#).

**NOCN Foundation and Intermediate Award in Careers Education and Preparation for Working Life:** NOCN has received notification from the QCA that the end date for these qualifications has been extended to 30.12.2010. Assessment tasks have also been amended.

**NOCN suite of language qualifications:** NOCN has received notification from the QCA that the end date for this suite of qualifications has been extended to 30.12.2010. The certification end date has been extended to 31/12/2011 for Level 1 qualifications, 31/12/2002 for Level 2 and 31/12/2013 for Level 3.

**NOCN Level 2 Award in using ICT as a tool for learning:** The updated Qualification Guide for this recently extended and amended Level 2 Award is available on the [NOCN website](#).

**Contact your Development Manager for more information on any of these amended or extended qualifications.**

## NOCN Recognised Centre Handbook

The new Handbook for NOCN Recognised Centres has been published on the NOCN website. You can download a copy [here>>>](#).

### The Skills Pledge

The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all its employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2 (equivalent to 5 good GCSEs). The purpose is to ensure that all staff are skilled, competent and able to make a full contribution to the success of the organisation.



Keith Mogford, Chief Executive Officer of OCN Eastern Region (second right standing) joined colleagues including Denise Fielding, Chair of the Board of Trustees, OCN Eastern Region and Principal of Thurrock and Basildon College at a Skills Pledge signing at Thurrock and Basildon College, where Basildon & Thurrock University Hospital signed the pledge.

## Updates from OCN Eastern Region

### Centre Guidance - Quality Assurance

New guidance has been circulated to Centre Quality Contacts explaining the circumstances in which OCN Eastern Region will apply additional charges for quality assurance visits, as set out within the OCN Eastern Region "Fees 2008-2009" leaflet. If you have not received your copy please [contact us](#).

### Training Courses - Tutor Assessor Award

For organisations that are relatively new to OCN practice and methods of assessment in credit-based learning, or for newly-recruited staff with no experience of OCN provision, this is the ideal course to ease your tutors or trainers in gently.

If they wish to achieve a formal assessment qualification, this four day course leads to the Tutor Assessor Award or for an introduction to OCN provision they can attend just the first one day session. The course runs over four days and the price, including certification, is £350.

### Training Courses - NOCN Internal Verifier Award

All OCN Recognised Centres should seek to achieve Authorised Internal Verifier Status (AIVS) for their OCN provision in order to both ensure and measure the rigour and robustness of internal quality systems and to avoid potential additional costs for quality review.

If your tutors or trainers are not endorsed as Approved Internal Verifiers they can work towards the NOCN Internal Verifier Award which in turn enables the centre's representative to sign Recommendations for the Award of Credit. This Level 3 course runs over five days and the price, including certification, is £330.

Details of these and all other OCN courses can be found on the [OCN Eastern Region](#) website. Alternatively, if you have any questions on which courses would be most relevant to your organisation, please contact [Linda Sebborn](#) via email or on 01206 873868.

#### **New website**

A revamped OCN Eastern Region website will be launched later this month. New features will include the ability to upload learner registrations securely.

We will be looking for users of the website to comment on its usability and functionality. If you are interested in taking part in this exercise please [contact us](#).

We will let you all know when the site is about to go live.

## **Your feedback**

If there are topics you would like to see covered in future issues, please let us know. You can email [newsletter@ocner.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ocner.org.uk) or [click here](#). We are always interested in your thoughts and opinions.

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