

Welcome to the third edition of the OCN Eastern Region newsletter.

We hope you are still finding it of interest. As always, we welcome feedback and suggestions to make it more relevant to the reader.

The newsletter will be taking a break over the summer but will be back with another edition in September.

In this edition:

- News from Recognised Centres
- Latest NOCN News
- Qualification updates:
 - Languages
 - Health and Social Care
 - Self Employment and Enterprise
- QIA Update
- Step-UP white paper
- Updates from OCN Eastern Region

If you find this newsletter interesting, please [forward it](#) to a colleague.

News from Recognised Centres LEARNING ON THE JOB: Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals Foundation

It's never too late to learn, as hundreds of members of staff at the Trust have proved by adding to their skills and qualifications at Basildon University Hospital's Education Trust.

A dedicated Staff Training and Development (ST&D) team was established two years ago at the Trust, based in the Education Centre. The team provides professional, comprehensive, flexible training and development courses to ensure Trust staff develop the knowledge and skills to fulfil their role within the organisation as well as their career potential.

There is something for everyone at the Education Centre, with courses for clinical and non-clinical staff, from administrators to anaesthetists, and pathologist to porters. One of the most popular courses is Anatomy, Physiology and Medical Terminology for non-clinically qualified staff, which helps them understand the professional jargon of hospitals.

The ST&D team has recently become an Open College Network Recognised Centre. This will allow them to offer more accredited courses and means that learners can accumulate units to form full National Qualifications.

Nearly all the courses at the Education Centre are completed in one day, and most of them are delivered as workshops with participation and activities - but not usually role play. "We find that people are



The ST&D Team

really not keen on role play, except many of the junior doctors, who seem to like it!", explains Emma Hill-Lonergan, Staff Training and Development Facilitator. "But the most important thing to remember is that everyone learns in different ways, and we can adapt the way we deliver courses to allow for that. We encourage people to learn in an active way, through group discussion, undertaking quizzes, labelling diagrams, and playing games".

You can email the ST&D team here:
staffdev@btuh.nhs.uk >>>

Latest NOCN News

The new NOCN website - Your questions answered

Recognised Centres do not need a login or password to access qualification guides or the unit bank on the new NOCN website. They can be found on the [Products](#) menu.

The format of the Qualification table on the site has also changed. There is now a link to the [Qualification Guide](#) and for qualifications which contain a significant number of units the unit table and list of units have been attached and merged into one document which can be accessed by clicking on the Unit List and Units link.

NOCN Qualification fees

The fees for NOCN qualifications 2008/9 have been published. The details can be found on the [NOCN website](#).

Bulletin 08/13: Financial Literacy Qualification Guides - the revised qualification guide is now available on the NOCN website

Bulletin 08/14 NOCN Level 2 Certificate in Employability -confirmation has been received from the QCF that the qualification has been revised/extended - three optional units have been replaced.

Qualification number	Qualification level, type, title	Start date	End date	Certification end date
500/3838/2	NOCN Level 2 Certificate in Employability	01/05/2008	31/12/2010	31/12/2012

Bulletin 08/16 NOCN Level 2 Award in using ICT as a Tool for Learning - confirmation has been received from the QCF that the qualification has been revised/extended

Qualification number	Qualification level, type, title	Start date	End date	Certification end date
100/4977/0	NOCN Level 2 Award in Using ICT as a Tool for Learning.	01/04/2005	31/07/2009	31/07/2011

Please ask your Business Development Manager for more details on any of these NOCN Bulletins.

Qualification Updates

NOCN Plans for Language Qualifications

NOCN has applied to the QCA for an extension to the existing language qualifications. Once approved, a revised set of qualifications will be developed and submitted to the QCA for inclusion in the QCF. These will be based on the results of the recent evaluation carried out amongst OCNs and key language contacts. The aim is to have the new qualification approved for use at some point during 2008/9. If you have any questions about language qualifications please contact your Business Development Manager.

Health and Social Care

OCN Northern Ireland has developed a Level 2 Health and Social Care Progression Certificate with the Western Health and Social Care Trust. The course was developed for a range of support staff across bands 1-4, including domiciliary care workers, day care workers and porters. The Western Health and Social Care Trust first ran a 2 day Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) workshop to

allow staff to explore their own skills and the relevance of learning. This workshop was itself based on a unit from the Qualifications for Progression (Building Your Own Personal Career Portfolio). Staff then worked with colleagues and tutors to develop Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and to align them with health and social care needs.

Many of the staff then completed the Level 2 Certificate in Progression which is built around the six core Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF) dimensions of communications; personal and people development; health, safety and security; service improvement; quality; equality and diversity. You can find out more about this qualification from your Business Development Manager.

NOCN Level 2 and Level 3 Award and Certificate in Self Employment and Enterprise

These new qualifications are designed to enable learners to find out about self-employment and enterprise as a realistic career option, or to generally develop their entrepreneurial skills. They have been developed in conjunction with the small business standard setting body, the Small Firms Enterprise and Development Initiative (SFEDI), to address the identified development needs of people who are setting up or running a small business.

The qualifications cover practical issues involved in setting up and running a business and are intended for those learners who already have a business idea and are about to start up, or those learners who have already started a small business and who wish to have recognition and accreditation of the practical skills and knowledge they are developing. Assessment is portfolio-based and acknowledges the practical nature of starting a business.

Future developments will build on and extend these qualifications to support enterprise-related learning in schools, probation services and informal settings with disadvantaged groups such as those not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

Contact your Business Development Manager for more information.

OIA update:

A new website has been launched by the QIA: the Qualification Reform Support Programme. This site provides events registration, checklists, key documents and an opportunity to find the answers to your questions on qualification reform. In particular, a series of five quick guides, which focus on different aspects of the UK Vocational Qualification reform Programme (UK VQRP) including the QCF and the FLT, are very informative.

You can also download a matrix to help your organisation plan for the implementation of, and the new qualifications on, the QCF. Click on the image below to go to the site.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Qualification Reform Support Programme (QRSP) website. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with links for Home, News, Events, FAQs, Ask a question, Links, and Contact us. The main heading is "Welcome to the Qualification Reform Support Programme (QRSP)". Below this, there is a section titled "Readiness Matrix" with a button to "Download the fifth UKVQRP e-newsletter". There are also sections for "Latest News", "QRSP Quick Guides", and "Ask a Question".

Step-UP white paper

Developing a Personalised Curriculum for Alternative Provision

This white paper, published by OCN Eastern Region, discusses the plans to reform education and training, particularly at the 14 to 19 stage, and the implications for curriculum design.

It helps the reader understand how to create a personalised curriculum for alternative provision using credit-based qualifications from within the emerging Qualifications and Credit Framework (OCF).

[Click here](#) >>> to request your copy of the white paper.

Updates from OCN Eastern Region

Curriculum Plan

Have you sent back your curriculum plan?

You should now have received an email asking for your curriculum plan for 2008/9. If you have not returned your plan, please do so at the earliest opportunity. Please note that the estimated learner numbers requested are just that - an estimate to assist us in our business planning process. OCN Eastern Region will not invoice your centre for this number of learners. Invoices will be raised upon registration of learners as usual.

If you have not received this email please contact your Development Support Officer on development@ocner.org.uk for a copy. Thank you.

Learners 2007/8

Have you registered all your learners for 2007/8? If not please contact your Business Development Manager with an estimate of the number of learners you still have to register.

Fees 2008/9

The Centre Recognition and Learner fees for 2008/9 have now been published. For a copy of the leaflet please [click here](#)>>>

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 or [click here](#). We are always interested to hear your thoughts and opinions.

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