

**Welcome to the latest edition of the OCN Eastern Region newsletter. It is specifically designed to keep Recognised Centres up to date. We hope you find it of interest.**

**The aim is to keep each edition short and sharp with links to find out more about the items featured.**

### **In this edition:**

- QCF Update
- FLT Practitioners' Forum
- Accessing Train to Gain Funding
- News from Recognised Centres
- FREE Functional Skills Briefing
- NOCN Qualifications Update
- OCN Eastern Region Update

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

## **QCF Update**

Qualifications that have been approved within the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) are now available for use by all learning providers and are eligible for funding by the LSC.

It should also be noted that qualifications in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) will not be funded by the LSC from 2010. If you would like to discuss how you can start moving your provision to the QCF, please contact your Development Manager.

For an overview of the NOCN Qualifications in Progression (QCF) please request an overview leaflet by clicking on the image on the right. Full details of the QCF Qualifications offered by NOCN including the [Qualification Guides](#) are also on the NOCN website.



## **FLT Practitioners' Forum**

**Launch Event: 13th November 2008, West Suffolk College**

The FLT Practitioners' Forum will provide a vehicle for information exchange between providers; advice and guidance following the November FLT National Conference; and general networking. It is planned to convene the forum three times a year at different venues across the East of England.

If you would like to attend, [email](#) us to find out more.

## **Accessing Train to Gain Funding just got easier**

The Government has recently announced a relaxing of the rules for Train to Gain and additional funding of £350 million. This means that more small and medium businesses (SMEs) will be able to access training for their employees.

As the announcement states: "One key element of the package is relaxing the rules to allow funding for "bite-sized chunks" - small units or modules of qualifications in subjects known to be important to SMEs, such as business improvement, team-working, customer service and risk management."

OCN Eastern Region has a large number of units available in these areas which should attract funding. We can help you design a course for small employers or groups of employers in your area. Read the [full press release](#), or contact your Development Manager for more information.

## News From Recognised Centres:

### *Ipswich Students get a taste of a new language*

More than two hundred Ipswich students have, this year, achieved their first step in learning a new language that isn't a regular feature of the national curriculum. Pupils from Northgate High School were able to try their hand at a range of six languages including Greek, Russian, Mandarin and Arabic.

The school runs a successful language conference annually involving all its lower sixth form students. Each student learns a new alphabet as well as a range of useful phrases through completing a variety of language-based tasks. They also study the different cultures of the people who speak the languages.

Northgate School's Alex Blagona who organises the event says: "The courses really open the eyes of the students in terms of gaining a greater understanding of other languages and cultures. They are met with overwhelming approval and one of the biggest benefits is that the course is officially accredited by the Open College Network."

As well as the enjoyment and motivation that the courses provide, the school has had a large number of students who have requested to continue with the language. The school is now following this up with lessons offered to students as after school clubs.

For more information on the language courses offered by OCN Eastern Region please contact your Development Manager. The [Qualification Guides](#) for our suite of Language Skills qualifications can be found on the NOCN website.

### *ACL helps dream come true for physio Theo*

Theo Denton had a real struggle to fulfil his ambition of becoming a physiotherapist - it wasn't until he found the Access to HE course at the Adult Community Learning Centre, Dovercourt, that he got on the right track - and he started his physio training in September. The full story can be found on page 16 of [Touchstone](#), an Essex Country Council publication.

### *Offender Learning*

In an interview with [Criminal Justice Management](#) magazine the new NOCN Chief Executive, Professor Jill Brunt, explains the thinking behind our flexible accreditation system and how it applies to offender learning programmes.

## Functional Skills Briefing from the QIA

The Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) is offering a series of half-day in-house briefings and training sessions to inform and support providers of adult education and training that are **not** part of the functional skills pilot.

You can [book](#) one of a series of **FREE** briefings for your organisation direct with the LSN who are delivering them on behalf of the QIA.

## NOCN Qualifications Update

### Financial Literacy for pre-16

Ofqual has confirmed that the performance points information for the following NOCN qualifications, which are now approved for pre-16 learners, has been added to the National Database of Accredited Qualifications ([NDAO](#)).

100/4856/X NOCN Entry Level Award in Financial Literacy (Entry 3)

100/4857/1 NOCN Entry Level Certificate in Financial Literacy (Entry 3)

100/4854/6 NOCN Level 1 Award in Financial Literacy

100/4855/8 NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Financial Literacy

### IAG Qualifications

The [Qualification Guides](#) for the new Information Advice or Guidance qualifications are now available on the NOCN website. These qualifications replace the former Information Advice and Guidance qualifications within the NQF.

### NOCN Level 2 Award in Using ICT as a Tool for Learning

The updated [Qualification Guide](#) for the recently extended and amended Level 2 Award in Using ICT as a Tool for Learning is now available on the NOCN website.

### NOCN Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work

Confirmation has been received from QCA that the NOCN Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work has now been extended. The end date is now 31/08/2009 and the certification end date is 31/08/2012. The [Qualification Guide](#) is available on the NOCN website.

## OCN Eastern Region update

### PR Campaign

We have recently embarked on a PR campaign to raise the profile of OCN Eastern Region and inform readers about the aims and objectives of a credit-based approach to qualifications. To support this we will also be offering the press a series of case studies and success stories. This in turn will give added publicity to courses that providers offer - raising your profile too.

If you have a case study or success story that might be of interest to a wide audience, please contact [Julie Hewitt](#).

### Change of contact details

If you have recently reorganised or there has been a change in staff responsibilities that affect your OCN provision, please let us know.

Having an up-to-date contact list helps with the administration of Centre Recognition and quality assurance. Not having up-to-date information can delay the registration of courses and learners.

Your [Development Support Officer](#) will be able to help by supplying the appropriate form.

### 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 to hear your thoughts and opinions. To ensure your continued receipt of this newsletter please [confirm your details](#).

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