

ocn news

The newsletter from OCN Eastern Region



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Welcome to the final OCN Eastern Region newsletter of 2008. We will be back with another edition in the new year. Much has happened during 2008, culminating in the confirmation of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) in November.

In this edition:

- QCF announced
- FLT Practitioners' Forum
- LSC Grant and Statement of Priorities
- Skills Agenda
- News from Recognised Centres
- Updates from OCN Eastern Region

As always, if there is anything you would like to see featured in future editions please let us know.

Qualifications and Credit Framework announced.

The Government has formally announced the implementation of the Qualifications and Credit framework (QCF). As expected it endorses the approach taken by the OCN over the last 25 years.

Further Education Minister Sion Simon said: "The Qualifications and Credit framework means that, for the first time, all learning counts. The new system will ensure that no learning is ever lost, as qualifications will be flexible enough to incorporate relevant modules of training gained at a pace that suits the learner. In this way, we'll enable people with family, work and other responsibilities to gain the qualifications they need to get on in life and develop their careers in a way that makes maximum use of their talents."

OCN Eastern Region will be running a series of briefings in the New Year explaining what the QCF in particular, and credit-based learning in general, means to learning providers. If you would like an invitation to an event near you please [supply your email address](#).

In the meantime, the QCA will be placing a core QCF presentation and the final version of the QCF support pack on its website. It will also be distributing a monthly newsletter. To subscribe visit the subscription area of the [QCA website](#), enter your details and select the QCF e-Newsletter option.

Department for
**Innovation,
Universities &
Skills**

Click on the logo above
to read the full
Ministerial release

FLT Practitioners' Forum

The first Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) Practitioners' Forum, held at West Suffolk College on November 13th, saw more than 30 delegates from 22 organisations across the East of England

come together to discuss the issues and challenges around the implementation of the FLT. Some of the organisations are in the current pilot, so were able to impart their experiences to the rest of the audience. The consensus from the day was that the forum was a useful vehicle for keeping up to date and sharing best practice.

If you would like an invitation to the next event - due in February or March 2009 - please [contact us](#). Dates will be confirmed in the new year.

Copies of the presentations from the day can be downloaded from the [OCN Eastern Region website](#).

LSC Grant Letter and Statement of Priorities

We are clearly in times of major developments and shifts in focus in the learning and skills sector.

The LSC's Grant Letter and Statement of Priorities for 2009-10 have just been published and make reference to a number of developments and initiatives that are supported by OCN Eastern Region and NOCN initiatives. The most significant of these are:

- More flexibility in the curriculum for 14 to 19 NEETS.
- The newly announced flexibilities for SMEs in train to Gain.
- Offender learning and building on the outcomes of the Reducing Re-offending Test Beds (OCN Eastern Region is involved in the pilot in the East of England).
- FLT mainstream implementation.
- Greater flexibility in the offer below Level 2 making it easier for units rather than whole qualifications to be used.

You can read the full text of the [Grant Letter](#) and the [Statement of Priorities](#) on the LSC and DIUS websites.

OCN Eastern Region is currently investigating the possibility of holding a funding seminar in the Spring. If you would be interested in attending please [let us know](#). Further details will be published as the event takes shape.

Skills Agenda

If you are involved in a Functional Skills Pilot or are currently teaching Key Skills or Skills for Life courses you might find the following newsletters and resources of interest:

Move On to World Class Skills: This bulletin includes new developments and resources to support you and your colleagues with your Skills for Life work and with wider skills development activity. You can visit the website or can register for the Move On e-Bulletin by emailing your details to move.on@tribalgroup.co.uk.

QCA Functional Skills newsletters: The QCA now publishes a Functional Skills newsletter to keep you up to date with functional skills developments and the support available during the pilot programme. You can subscribe to this and any of their newsletter publications [here](#).

NEWS FROM RECOGNISED CENTRES: Enterprise Wise

E-Wise is a life-changing experience for all students and all students deserve the E-Wise experience.

Enterprise Wise (E-Wise) is an innovative scheme of work whose unique structure is recording excellent results in enterprise education at schools across the country. The programme is inclusive of all students and is packed with fun, non-standard learning activities which arouse



a 'Can Do' attitude in young people. The course is devised to inspire students to become independent learners. The main outcome is to stimulate an enterprise behaviour which will benefit students in all walks of life!

The course is based on units from the NOCN Step Up qualifications and provides the equivalent of half a GCSE and contributes points for Achievement and Attainment tables.

You can find out more about the scheme on the [E-wise website](#).



Updates from OCN Eastern Region

PR

We continue to look for interesting stories and case studies to support our press relations campaign. If you have a case study or success story that might be of interest to a wide audience across the east of England, please contact [Julie Hewitt](#).

Training

OCN Eastern Region provides a number of training courses for Internal Verifiers and Tutor Assessors leading to formal awards. Your next opportunity to attend OCN Eastern Region training is:

NOCN Internal Verifier Award - February in Colchester, March in Letchworth and April in London.

NOCN Internal Verifier Practitioners Award - April in Colchester and May in Norwich.

Tutor Assessor Award - May in Colchester.

You can download a course prospectus and booking form from the [OCN Eastern Region](#) website.

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.

OCN Eastern Region, Wivenhoe House, University of Essex, Colchester, CO4 3SQ
T: 01206 873023, F: 01206 873956, E: enquiries@ocner.org.uk

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