

Welcome to the first OCN Eastern Region newsletter of 2009. There is much to look forward to in the coming year and we will endeavour to keep you up to date on all relevant initiatives.

If there is anything you would like to see covered in future editions please let us know.

In this edition:

- **Upcoming events**
- **QCA / LSC Update**
- **Qualifications Update**
- **Functional Skills Support Guidance**
- **News from Recognised Centres**
- **Updates from OCN Eastern Region**

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

Upcoming events

FLT Practitioners' Forum - March

ACL Essex, Witham

Following the success of the first meeting of the FLT Practitioners' Forum, the second meeting is being planned. If you would like a formal invitation please email our [conference team](#).

Solving the Funding Puzzle - April

How to Apply the new LSC Funding Formula for Maximum Benefit,

23rd April 2009, Weston Homes Community Stadium, Colchester.

This event hosted by OCN Eastern Region and presented by Beej Kaczmarczyk, is open to anyone interested in understanding more fully the complexities of the LSC Funding Formula. If you would like a formal invitation and detailed agenda when they are published in early March, please contact our [conference team](#).

Understanding the ins and outs of FLT provision - May

Our next series of seminars will focus on the practical issues of implementing qualifications within the Foundation Learning Tier. We will discuss the ins and outs of creating a curriculum using qualifications within the QCF and call upon the experience of schools and colleges who have started delivering the Step UP qualification from NOCN. The seminars will be at various venues across the region. For an invitation please email our [conference team](#).

QCA and LSC Updates

Qualifications and Credit Framework Support Pack - version 3 now available!

The QCA has published its latest support pack for those involved in the design and development of units and qualifications for the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). It will also be useful to others who want to develop their knowledge and understanding of the QCF. It has been revised following the outcomes of the tests and trials. You can obtain your copy from the [QCA website](#).

LSC Unit Funding Trials

Further guidance has been published for the Adult Learner Responsive Model arrangements of the QCF Unit Funding Trials. Access to the full document along with our comment is published on the OCN Eastern Region [website](#).

LSC Funding Policy Documents 2009/10

The LSC's intention is that the majority of rules and regulations currently in place for 2008/09 will be rolled over for 2009/10. They have therefore recently published a document that sets out just the changes to the [LSC's Funding Guidance](#) that relate to 2009/10.

In all other areas, not described in the final version of this document, the Funding Guidance for 2008/09 will continue to apply.

Qualifications Update

Managing Voluntary and Community Organisations/Managing Volunteers

Confirmation has been received from QCA that this qualification has been extended.

Qualification number	Qualification level, type, title	Start date	End date	Certification end date
100/4827/3	NOCN Level 2 Certificate in Managing Voluntary and Community Organisations	01/01/2005	31/12/2010	31/12/2012
100/2017/2	NOCN Level 3 Award in Managing Voluntary and Community Organisations	01/02/2002	31/12/2010	31/12/2013
100/4828/5	NOCN Level 3 Certificate in Managing Voluntary and Community Organisations	01/01/2005	31/12/2010	31/12/2013
100/2019/6	NOCN Level 3 Award in Managing Volunteers	01/02/2002	31/12/2010	31/12/2013

For more information please contact your Development Manager.

Functional Skills Support Guidance for Practitioners

The functional skills (FS) pilot qualifications in English, mathematics and ICT commenced delivery in September 2007 in a range of learning environments, including schools, colleges, adult and community learning providers, and through local authority projects. The pilot programme continues, with the full qualifications being introduced in September 2010.

A [guidance document](#) can be found at the bottom of the resource section on the OCN Eastern Region website that provides an update on the latest functional skills pilot developments as well as links to functional skills support materials, guidance and other helpful resources.

NEWS FROM RECOGNISED CENTRES: Top of the TREE winners at the 2009 national Furniture Reuse Network awards

Standing out from 320 voluntary sector organisations in the Furniture Reuse Network (FRN) was Tendring Reuse and Employment Enterprise (TREE) of Essex in recognition of their services to the reuse sector and impressive partnership arrangements with business and local government.

Spokesperson for the judges, FRN President Richard Featherstone, said: "TREE has been an inspiration to other projects all year." Over the last year TREE had saved a project in Chelmsford from closure, opened new facilities for testing and repairing fridges,

TREE manager Mark Penn, pictured receiving the award, was stunned they had been chosen by the judges but said, "all the staff and volunteers have made it possible for me to give time to supporting our network colleagues".

developed a range of partnerships with local private companies, assisted other local charities in developing systems for reusing electrical items and assisted an increased number of people in Essex on low incomes through the provision of low cost furniture and white goods.

For more information on the work of TREE, please visit their [website](#).



TREE, an OCN Eastern Region Recognised Centre, offers its members who have learning disabilities support, assessment and training. This helps to improve their confidence and interpersonal skills, and enhance their opportunities when looking for paid employment in the future.

Updates from OCN Eastern Region

Keith Mogford

You may by now know that Keith Mogford is moving on from OCN Eastern Region. He has been appointed to the newly created position of Director of Stakeholder Engagement at the National Open College Network (NOCN) and will be taking up the post on 16th February 2009.

The role of Director of Stakeholder Engagement is part of a new infrastructure developed to support the priorities for business growth in the network as outlined by Jill Brunt, the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of NOCN. These priorities include raising the organisation's profile nationally as an Awarding Body that provides robust qualifications and excellent customer service.

If you would like to know more please contact [Carol Snape](#), Director of Business Development, who will assume the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer on Keith's departure.

Get ready for Grading!

From September 2009 the Access to HE Diploma will be a graded qualification. All Diplomas awarded from July 2009 will include a grade profile listing the grades achieved for units completed on the course.

During 2009, OCN Eastern Region will be working to ensure a smooth transition to the graded Diploma. The OCN is committed to minimising the burden on providers and will be working with moderators to guide and support Access centres and universities. Details of the [implementation plan](#) are on the OCN Eastern Region website.

Statistical Reporting to FORVUS

To enable NOCN to meet the deadlines for the reporting of data for inclusion by FORVUS into the DCSF schools achievement and attainment tables, OCN Eastern Region has the following deadlines:

Date OCN requires award information from Centre	Date award information to be registered by OCN	Date awards reported to Forvus by NOCN
Friday 20 March 2009	Monday 13 April 2009	Monday 27 April 2009
Friday 26 June 2009	Monday 20 July 2009	Monday 3 August 2009

If your school or college appears in the achievement and attainment tables please ensure your award information is submitted on time. For more information please contact your

Development Support Officer.

Training

The latest group to successfully complete the NOCN Internal Verifier and Assessor Awards has been published on the OCN Eastern Region website.

The centres employing Approved Internal Verifiers now have access to Direct Claims Status. This means that the centre's Approved Internal Verifiers will be able to authorise the Recommendation for the Award of Credit, without the need for a visit from an External Verifier, thus easing the administration burden and speeding up the process.

If you want to undertake training courses, our training calendar over the next few months includes:

NOCN INTERNAL VERIFIER AWARD: 6, 20, 27 April, 11, 18 May in London
NOCN INTERNAL VERIFIER PRACTITIONER AWARD: 28 April in Colchester
NOCN INTERNAL VERIFIER PRACTITIONER AWARD: 12 May in Norwich
NOCN TUTOR ASSESSOR AWARD: 6, 20, 27 May, 3 June in Colchester
TUTOR ASSESSOR INTRODUCTION: 6 May in Colchester

Visit the [training and development pages](#) of our website to download a booking form or full course prospectus.

PR

We continue to look for interesting stories and case studies to support our press relations campaign. The LSC and the BBC have recently launched the Big Skill Awards 2009. These awards would be a great opportunity to showcase your learners and courses. More information can be found on the [LSC website](#).

The closing date is April 17th 2009 so there is plenty of time to make nominations. If you would like us to forward a nomination form to you when they become available please [let us know](#).

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.

To ensure your continued receipt of this newsletter please [confirm your subscription](#).

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