

ocn news

The newsletter from OCN Eastern Region



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Welcome to the second OCN Eastern Region newsletter of 2009.

As always we endeavour to keep you up to date with news and developments from the region, from government and from regulatory authorities.

Please let us know if there is anything you would like covered in future editions.

In this edition:

- New Qualifications: Personal Best
- FLT and Functional Skills Update
- Cracking the funding code
- New Skills for Life Strategy
- News from Recognised Centres
- Qualifications update
- Updates from OCN Eastern Region

Please feel free to [forward the newsletter](#) to a colleague.

New Qualifications - Personal Best

This exciting new qualification has been developed from a pilot programme in preparation for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It aims to raise the profile of volunteering amongst those furthest from the labour market and to use volunteering at a public event as a means of improving skills, knowledge and experience to create routes to employment. The qualification will support the sustainability element of the bid for the London 2012 Games.

The balance of the units in the qualification have been designed to support learners into work and/or further learning through the development of personal learning and work experience.

The NOCN Level 1 Award in Preparation for Event Volunteering (Personal Best) (QCF) enables progression to employment, further opportunities within employment, further study and higher-level qualifications including Level 2 qualifications in volunteering and stewarding. There is also an Entry 3 level award in the suite.

personalbest

For more information about delivering this qualification, please contact your Development Manager. You can also download the [qualification guide](#).

FLT Update

FLT Practitioners' Forum - March 27th

Our second FLT Practitioners' Forum took place at ACL Essex in Witham on March 27th. It was a very informative session, with a case study presented by ACL Essex and a guest speaker - Sue O'Gorman of NIACE.

An [LSC briefing note](#) was distributed which offers further clarification to providers with regard to the continuing development and implementation of Progression Pathways in the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) through the 2008/09 planning cycle for the 2009/10 delivery.

The consensus of the day was that the next event, planned for June, should include an invited speaker from the LSC and a presentation from West Suffolk College on their credit success rate pilot. To register your interest in attending, please email the [marketing team](#).

Functional Skills Update - Sample Papers

NOCN is currently piloting Entry Level English, mathematics and ICT functional skills qualifications. Qualifications have been developed at Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3 to cater for differentiated achievement at Entry Level. The functional skills qualifications will provide a platform to further achievement through the development of fundamental, applied skills in each key subject area. The functional skills qualifications are designed to assess the development of skills in practical everyday contexts and real life situations. A range of [functional skills sample assessments](#) are now on the NOCN website. For more information on delivering these qualifications please contact your Development Manager.

The Functional Skills for Adults programme offers support to non-pilot centres preparing to deliver functional skills to adult learners. They have produced a series of booklets designed for managers and co-ordinators who have been given responsibility for leading the transition to functional skills. They aim to help you identify your centre's starting point for introducing the new qualifications, assess your existing practice in relation to the 10 critical success factors, recognise the strengths of your provision and plan how you could build on these. All these materials are available electronically and can be downloaded from the [Learning and Skills Improvement Services' Excellence Gateway](#).

Cracking the Code: How to Apply the New LSC Funding Formula for Maximum Benefit

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

This event - the first of its kind hosted by OCN Eastern Region - was very well attended. Delegates were treated to a very enlivened series of presentations from **Beej Kaczmarczyk**, an acknowledged authority on the subject of LSC funding, all of which were well received. In fact one delegate, when asked which aspect of the event was most beneficial answered "*that the facilitator made the topic interesting!*"

Plans are underway to host similar events in the future. If you are interested in attending an event covering [funding for schools](#) or [funding under the Skills Funding Agency](#) (SFA), please let us know.

New Skills for Life Strategy

Here is a link to the [DIUS website](#) which has details of the new Skills for Life Strategy launched in March, with an emphasis on improving literacy and numeracy skills of adults to help them get and keep jobs.

The new strategy focuses on embedding Skills for Life into vocational programmes and expanding it into Train to Gain, improving flexibility of provision, improving numeracy skills and providing jobseekers with literacy, numeracy and language skills for work.

Targets for the next three years are:

Improve literacy skills of 597,000 adults
Improve numeracy skills of 390,000 adults

There will be at least £1 billion for the strategy over the coming year.

NEWS FROM RECOGNISED CENTRES: Sheringham High School

The school is offering students the chance to swap the classroom for gardens and workshops and get their hands dirty whilst working towards a new nationally recognised qualification called Step-UP.

Growing organic fruit and vegetables, visiting farms and investigating issues concerning food production are all part of the year long horticulture course, while in the workshop students are building their own motor bike and learning how to service a car.

The courses offer an alternative approach to the traditional curriculum. Spending one day a week, the students are engaged and motivated to identify their individual strengths and interests. As well learning practical skills in gardening and mechanics, the 15–16 year olds are learning key life skills such as teamwork, leadership skills and time management.

The benefit of the Step-UP qualifications for the school is that it provides the flexibility to use external partners, including local authority and voluntary organisations, with the relevant expertise to deliver the coursework. In Sheringham High School's case, they use Norfolk County Council's Holt Hall Field Studies Centre for the horticulture elements of the course.



Qualification Updates

Bulletin 09-04 Creative Skills Development

Version 6 of the Qualification Guide for the NOCN Level 1 Award in Creative Skills Development is now available on the NOCN website. Please note that references to endorsements on the Design Style unit have been removed in order to reflect this as a generic unit. Whilst it may be assessed using a specific craft this is not recorded in the unit title. The Creative Craft Skills unit does reflect the endorsement and records the craft area that has been studied, for example, Creative Craft Skills (Metal Craft).

This enables the use of the generic Design Style unit within the Art and Design qualification suite.

Bulletin 09-05 NOCN Suite of Community Development Qualifications

QCA has confirmed the extension to the NOCN Suite of Community Development qualifications. Details of revised dates are given below:

Qualification number	Qualification level, type, title	Start date	End date	Certification end date
100/5142/9	NOCN Level 1 Award in Community Development	01/06/2005	31/12/2010	31/12/2011
100/4519/3	NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Community Development	01/10/2004	31/12/2010	31/12/2011
100/4520/X	NOCN Level 2 Certificate in Community Development	01/10/2004	31/12/2010	31/12/2012
100/4521/1	NOCN Level 3 Certificate in Community Development	01/10/2004	31/12/2010	31/12/2013

Please contact your Development Manager for more information on any of these changes.

Updates from OCN Eastern Region

Registration and Awards Training

Dates have been announced for the Registration and Awards Administration training. This training is for Examinations Officers and Administrative staff that complete OCN Eastern Region forms for Registering and Awarding Credit to learners. Specific courses are available for Access and Offender Learning centres as well as a general course for all other centres.

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

New training courses added - CPD opportunities

A new suite of Professional Development modules have been launched. They were developed in response to the outcomes of the centre quality monitoring programme. The modules are aimed at both the inexperienced and experienced practitioners involved in the delivery and quality assurance of credit based learning. They include:

- * Introduction to credit-based learning
- * Understanding accreditation and credit-based learning for schools
- * Principles of assessment
- * Standardisation of assessment
- * Writing assessment activities for credit-based learning
- * Understanding internal verification

To request your copy of the new training brochure please email the [training department](#).

Next Year's Provision

We will soon be contacting you to find out more about your plans for provision in the coming academic year. Please look out for this correspondence.

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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