

Welcome to the latest edition of the OCN Eastern Region newsletter. As usual we have included updates on the QCF, Foundation Learning and the Functional Skills Pilot. We have also highlighted some excerpts from Skills for Growth, the new national skills strategy and a case study that demonstrates how adult learning provision and training currently underway can be formally recognised.

As the transfer of qualifications into the QCF increases momentum, we also take the opportunity to summarise many of the National Open College Network (NOCN) qualifications newly available in the QCF.

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

## NOCN Qualifications Update

Qualifications in the QCF

NOCN now has over 70 qualifications in the QCF. You will find a summary of the following recent additions on the OCN Eastern Region website along with a link to the Qualification Guides:

[NOCN Suite of Entry Level Qualifications in Personal Progress \(Entry 1\) \(QCF\)](#) - a suite of Entry 1 qualifications specifically designed to meet the needs of learners seeking to improve their levels of independence in a variety of areas.

[NOCN Level 2 Award and Certificate in Employability \(QCF\)](#) - devised to provide learners with the recognition of a range of employability skills, whilst at the same time building their confidence and motivation to seek, secure and sustain meaningful employment.

[NOCN Level 2 and Level 3 Award in Work Place Learning Champions \(QCF\)](#) - provides an individual with the skills to identify and investigate future training/educational needs for themselves and others within their workplace.

[NOCN Entry Level Award and Certificate in Media Literacy \(Entry 3\) \(QCF\)](#) - provides an introduction to, and a basic understanding of, the media with a view to encouraging individuals to actively engage with, question and interpret the information and images presented to them through a range of media formats.

[NOCN Suite of Fashion and Textiles Qualifications \(QCF\)](#) - provides a realistic introduction to, and progression within, the industry, encouraging the development of business understanding, and creative, technical and practical skills.

Details of more new qualifications will be published shortly. They include:

The new suite of ITQ Qualifications in IT User Skills

Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS)

## Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CTLLS)

The complete list of [NOCN qualifications in the QCF](#) is on the NOCN website. Alternatively you can search for them on the [National Database of Accredited Qualifications](#) (NDAQ).

If you would like to discuss delivering any of the qualifications above, please contact your Development Manager or contact [OCN Eastern Region](#) by email.

## Qualifications in the NQF

The following qualifications in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), which were due to expire, have been extended whilst the QCF transfer project continues:

NOCN Suite of [Garden Design Qualifications](#)  
NOCN Level 3 [Award in Youth Work](#)  
NOCN [ESOL Skills for Life Qualifications](#)  
NOCN Suite of [Art and Design Qualifications](#)  
NOCN Level 3 [Award in Tackling Substance Misuse](#)  
NOCN Suite of [Voluntary and Community Qualifications](#)

The complete list of [NOCN qualifications still operating in the NQF](#) is on the NOCN website.

## Are you planning to deliver Functional Skills in 2010?

**Is your centre interested in using the NOCN suite of Functional Skills assessments at Level 1 and Level 2 to complement the current Entry Level assessments?**

**Are you looking for a suite of on-demand Functional Skills assessments from Entry Level to Level 2?**

QCDA has recently approved NOCN's Level 1 and Level 2 assessments which are currently being mapped to the new standards and we anticipate that they will be available from January 2010. Whereas the Entry Level assessments are on demand, internally marked and externally verified, the Level 1 and Level 2 assessments will be on demand but externally marked.

A full suite of Functional Skills [sample assessment papers](#) from Entry to Level 2 is available for download from the NOCN website.

Latest Functional Skills support material: A [Functional Skills toolkit](#) for exams office staff managing and administering qualifications in the functional skills pilot programme in 2009/10 is available from the QCDA website.

## Foundation Learning Resources

### FL Practitioners' Forum - 3rd November 2009

Foundation Learning Practitioners Forum: Cambridge Regional College

The [presentation](#) from the forum is now available to download from our website, along with a series of links for useful publications from the [DCSF, QCDA and the LSIS Excellence Gateway](#).

The next Foundation Learning Practitioners' Forum will be at City College Norwich on 4th February 2010. Speakers will include a representative from City College Norwich discussing their Step-UP programme and one from a County Council on the Functional Skills Pilot talking about engaging with adult learners.

For your invitation to the forum please contact our [marketing team](#).

## Skills for Growth Strategy

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a new strategy for skills in November 2009.

"The goal of this strategy is a skills system defined not simply by targets based on achieved

qualifications, but by 'real world' outcomes. We want a system that provides a higher level of vocational experience; one that promotes a greater mix of work and study and that encourages skills that are transferable from job to job. Skills must be taught expertly and carry genuine weight with employers. For students with the ambition to do so, we must broaden opportunities to progress through further education into higher education.”  
Secretary of State's Foreword, November 2009

The strategy has priorities in six key areas:

- How to promote the skills that matter for economic prosperity in modern Britain.
- How to dramatically expand the advanced apprenticeship system for young people.
- How to ensure the system responds to demand from businesses.
- How to empower adults to equip themselves for future jobs.
- How to raise recognition among more businesses of the value of investing in workforce skills.
- How to further improve the quality of provision in FE colleges and other training institutions.

These priorities set out an active approach to ensuring that the workforce has the skills required to be productive in the 21st century and dovetail closely with our curriculum review and new qualification development.

The full report and the executive Summary are available on the [BIS website](#).

## Case Study: Ways To Work For All



Ways to Work, Removing Barriers to Employment for Disabled People

The aim of this training programme is to empower people who find themselves disempowered in today's society whether that is through a physical or sensory disability, through low self esteem, a lack of life skills, mental health issues or substance misuse.



The programme:

- Empowers people to fulfil their potential
- Raises self esteem and increases motivation
- Supports people to make decisions about their own lives
- Enables people to seek out meaningful employment and to become active members of their communities



By empowering individuals we send ripples of rejuvenation through whole families and ultimately through whole communities.

The Ways to Work for All project is funded by the East of England Development Agency, the contract is managed by Essex County Council and the programme is delivered by Shaw Trust. Courses are delivered throughout Essex, with a hub based at the Colchester Business Enterprise Centre (COLBEA).



The Ways to Work for All NOCN training centre was set up in July 2009. It grew out of a wish for our clients to gain recognition for all the effort they made in their progress towards work. With evidence of this effort, and clients gaining accredited qualifications, this provides something tangible to show potential employers.

Through our affiliation with the National Open College Network (NOCN) we are able to offer a suite of nationally recognised Progression Qualifications, recognised by potential employers and

designed to be the precursor to Train to Gain.

For more information about the individual courses: Works for me, the GOALS course, Preparation for Work course and the Work Experience course please contact [Cathy Chabo](#) via email or visit the [Shaw Trust website](#).



## Adult Learners Week 2010

15-21 May, 2010

Nominations are now open for the Adult Learners Week 2010 Awards. If you know an inspiring individual, group, family or project whose remarkable learning achievements have transformed people's lives, nominate them for an Adult Learners' Week Award.

Full details of the award categories, how to nominate someone and the nomination forms are on the [Adult Learners Week](#) website.

And don't forget to tick the OCN box if your nominee took an OCN-accredited course or received a NOCN qualification.

## OCN Eastern Region Update

**We are moving! In mid-December we will relocate to the John Tabor Building.**

The John Tabor Building is signposted from the Boundary Road entrance to the university campus. It is accessed through the Constable Building, which itself is just past Wivenhoe House. Our phone numbers and the rest of our address will remain the same.

A map, directions and parking details will be posted on the OCN Eastern Region website during the week prior to the move.

### 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.