

Skilled for the Future:

A Strategy for Developing Qualifications Solutions
for the Health Sector

Action Plan for Northern Ireland: August 2011- July 2013

This Action Plan sets out the responsibilities, partners, timescales and deliverables for the actions that are required to achieve the strategic objectives described in *Skilled for the Future: A Strategy for Developing Qualifications Solutions for the Health Sector*. This Action Plan is for Northern Ireland and should be read alongside the full **strategy document**; readers may also wish to consider the relationship between this Action Plan and those for **Scotland, Wales** and **England**.

This Action Plan is published at a time of change in skills and health policy and Skills for Health commits to regular review of the Plan and revision where necessary.

Objective	Actions <i>Skills for Health will:</i>	Deliverables	By when	Dependencies	Partners and Stakeholders
Secure qualifications development to fill gaps resulting from the transition of NVQs in Health to the QCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate gaps identified by the sector • Facilitate business case development between the sector and Awarding Organisations. • Support unit and qualifications development, including appropriate support for inclusion in the QCF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised occupational competence qualifications for the health sector • At July 2011 these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decontamination • Renal care • Maternity & paediatrics • Phlebotomy • Digital imaging • Mammography • Blood Donor Support • Smaller Awards and Certificates 	April 2012	Revision of these qualifications is dependent on the sector being able to articulate a significant enough market through which an Awarding Organisation will be assured of a robust business case. New Awards and Certificates may be developed by Awarding Organisations where a business case can be made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarding Organisations Professional bodies Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Review occupational competence qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with awarding organisations to develop a plan to commence unit review by April 2012 • Qualifications reaccreditation will not complete until December 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review plan based on collaborative working • Reviewed units • Revised qualifications structure 	July 2013		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employer representation Awarding Organisations

Objective	Actions <i>Skills for Health will:</i>	Deliverables	By when	Dependencies	Partners and Stakeholders
Review National Occupational Standards for Infection Prevention and Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene stakeholder groups and secure project governance arrangements • Consult with sector • Draft NOS • Submit to UKCES for Approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised National Occupational Standards for Infection Prevention and Control 	January 2012	Gaining Approval for these NOS will be dependent on securing adequate and appropriate sector engagement in Northern Ireland	
Review suite of Health & Social Care (HSC) National Occupational Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with Skills for Care & Development • Ensure adequate and appropriate consultation with the health sector in Northern Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised HSC National Occupational Standards 	March 2012	Gaining Approval for these NOS will be dependent on securing adequate and appropriate health sector engagement in Northern Ireland	Skills for Care & Development
Review suite of Dental Nursing and Dental Technology National Occupational Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene stakeholder groups and secure project governance arrangements • Consult with sector • Draft NOS • Submit to UKCES for Approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Dental Nursing and Dental Technology National Occupational Standards 	July 2012	Gaining Approval for these NOS will be dependent on securing adequate and appropriate sector engagement in Northern Ireland	General Dental Council

Objective	Actions <i>Skills for Health will:</i>	Deliverables	By when	Dependencies	Partners and Stakeholders
Review suite of Mental Health National Occupational Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure sponsor • Convene stakeholder groups and secure project governance arrangements • Consult with sector • Draft NOS • Submit to UKCES for Approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Mental Health National Occupational Standards 	July 2013	<p>This review will be dependent on the outcomes of the UKCES Universal Services Project and securing a sponsor</p> <p>Gaining Approval for these NOS will be dependent on securing adequate and appropriate health sector engagement in Northern Ireland</p>	Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Revise Apprenticeship in Dental Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that occupational competence qualifications reflect any changes to the NOS and enable learners to register with the GDC as a Dental Nurse • Revise and issue SASE compliant Apprenticeship framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Dental Nursing qualification and Apprenticeship framework 	December 2012		Awarding Organisations
Ensure that Apprenticeship Frameworks are available to meet the development needs of health occupations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the component qualifications included in the joint H&SC Framework in Northern Ireland and include appropriate combined qualifications where there is a business need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the Apprenticeship Framework for Health and Social Care 	September 2012	Dependent on whether Frameworks in NI are purely a vehicle for public funding or set out the Apprenticeship requirements for the occupations	Department for Education and Learning, NISSC

Objective	Actions <i>Skills for Health will:</i>	Deliverables	By when	Dependencies	Partners and Stakeholders
Develop SASNI compliant Apprenticeship frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act in accordance with the statutory requirements of sector skills councils defined by the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards Northern Ireland Review component qualifications for the health sector Apprenticeships in line with the notion of an Apprenticeship as a programme of learning for the baseline standard for the support workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fit for purpose Apprenticeship frameworks 	TBC	These intentions are dependent on the publication of SASNI	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Sector employers Professional bodies Trades Unions

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