

Standardising NHS Health Screening Education & Training

Streamlining the education and training requirements for NHS Health Screeners with a new qualification – Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners



Outcomes

A single qualification which:

- is based on nationally agreed standards with individual pathways for the three screening areas
- recognises and confirms occupational competence
- is assessed in the learner's working environment
- supports consistency of content, delivery and assessment for learners and training providers
- is accredited on the Ofqual Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) in England
- provides opportunity for transferability through recognition of prior learning gained in other similar health qualifications

Background

In 2015, Public Health England (PHE) led a review of the education and training of NHS Health Screeners in England. This review considered the existing varied approaches to the education and training requirements for three areas of current NHS health screening programmes: **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA), Diabetic Eye and Newborn Hearing**.

The objective was to develop a sustainable, standardised qualification based on nationally agreed standards but which could be delivered locally. The outcome needed to be suitable for new staff embarking on their career and as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for existing staff. The aspiration was that the qualification would consist of mandatory units applicable across the three types of screener roles and a range of additional units specific to each discipline.

“We are delighted to finally have a national screener qualification available which provides screeners with a high quality, work based training programme and a career pathway for future development. We could not have achieved this without the skill and expertise of the stakeholders involved. The skill, commitment and professionalism of the Skills for Health team drove the project forward and ensured collaboration and a quality end product.”

Joanne Harcombe, National Lead for Stakeholder Information and Professional Education and Training, Public Health England



How we helped

Skills for Health was commissioned by PHE and Health Education England (HEE) (working across the East Midlands) to facilitate the development of a regulated qualification with interested Awarding Organisations. This work was split into two planned stages. As part of the first stage of the work, Skills for Health worked with PHE, HEE and subject matter experts to describe the roles carried out by the three types of screening using National Occupational Standards. This was then mapped across to units from existing health occupational competence qualifications.

Once the common units were identified, Skills for Health facilitated the development of the role specific units with four Awarding Organisations and subject matter experts from each screening area. Workshops and webinars

were used to review the existing education and training provision and to translate this information into units of learning. The indicative content for guiding the delivery and assessment of the units was developed alongside the units. Skills for Health facilitated the assignment of level, notional credit and total qualification time (TQT) to meet the qualification regulatory requirements. On submission

to Ofqual, Future Awards & Qualifications, Innovate Awarding, NOCN and Pearson successfully accredited the Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners to commence delivery from 1st April 2016.

What's next?

The qualification will be implemented in a phased process from 1st April 2016.

Want to find out more?

If you are an employer or provider who would like to know more about offering this qualification then help is available. Please contact your chosen Awarding Organisation from the four listed below or contact the PHE screening helpdesk http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk/email_us_form.php

Future Awards and Qualifications <http://www.futurequals.com/>

Innovate Awarding <https://www.innovateawarding.org/>

NOCN <http://www.nocn.org.uk/>

Pearson <https://uk.pearson.com/>



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