



Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners

A new qualification has been developed in collaboration with Public Health England, Health Education England and Awarding Organisations for health screeners working in the areas of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), diabetic eye (DE) and newborn hearing (NBH) screening. This new vocational qualification has been available since 1st April 2016.

For those familiar with the previous arrangements, this qualification may be a significant change to the education, training and assessment of health screeners.

This briefing is aimed at those who want to understand the infrastructure and terminology associated with offering the new Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners.


What is the new qualification?

The Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners is a regulated qualification, recognised by Ofqual, for use in England. It is made up of a range of units that cover the knowledge and competence required. There are a number of mandatory units that include the topics that are common across screening modalities and within a clinical environment; these units must be taken by all learners. Learners must additionally select units which are arranged into pathways in the areas of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), diabetic eye (DE) and newborn hearing (NBH) screening. This qualification is delivered and assessed completely in the workplace.

The structure of the qualification and all the units can be seen by searching the Register of Regulated Qualifications at <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>

What is the role of Ofqual?

Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) is a governmental department that regulates and is responsible for overseeing general and vocational qualifications in England. Their aim is to maintain standards and public confidence of the qualifications that it regulates. To do this, Ofqual regulates Awarding Organisations which must maintain standards set out by Ofqual. Qualifications that are offered by these Awarding Organisations must meet the requirements of the Regulated Qualifications Framework.



The Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners is only offered by Ofqual regulated Awarding Organisations and meets the requirements of the Regulated Qualifications Framework.

What is the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)?

The Regulated Qualifications Framework or RQF is a framework of general and vocational qualifications which are regulated by Ofqual. The framework is intended to catalogue qualifications by their size and complexity. The RQF uses the same levels that learners may already be familiar with, Entry 1-3 and Levels 1-8. Ofqual has produced an infographic, which illustrates the relationship between the levels [Ofqual Bookcase Postcard](#)

The qualification level indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills being described within the qualification. The Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners is an RQF level 3 qualification which is the equivalent of A/AS levels, NVQ level 3 and advanced apprenticeships. Further information regarding RQF levels is available at <https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>

Total Qualification Time

The size of the qualification illustrates the estimated total time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in Total Qualification Time. TQT is, essentially, an indication of how long a typical learner might take to study a qualification, including the time spent on their individual study and on assessment. It also includes Guided Learning Hours (GLH), which is the time spent actually being taught by an appropriate professional. Qualifications are usually expressed in the following sizes: Award – a qualification with a TQT value of 120 or less; Certificate – a qualification with a TQT value in the range of 121–369; Diploma - a qualification with a TQT value of 370 or more.

For the Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners, the Total Qualification Time varies depending on which pathway the learner takes and ranges from 507 hours (AAA) to 660 hours (DE screener/grader). The Newborn Hearing pathway is 561 hours.

Awarding Organisations and their role


Awarding Organisations create and award qualifications but, unlike Universities and other Higher Education Institutions, Awarding Organisations do not deliver programmes of education and training. Awarding Organisations operate through a network of approved centres (sometimes referred to as awarding centres).

For each qualification an Awarding Organisation offers, it defines:

- what the learner must know and be able to do in order to be awarded the qualification. These are called 'learning outcomes' and are packaged into the different units for the qualification
- how the learner will be assessed by an assessor at their place of work. These are called 'assessment criteria'
- quality assurance arrangements for the qualification.

Learning outcomes, assessment criteria and quality assurance arrangements for the Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners can be seen by searching the register at <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>

For the Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners, each unit of learning has learning outcomes and assessment criteria which the learner will be measured against during the course of the qualification. A learner will have to meet all of



the learning outcomes within the units in the specific screening pathway to be able to be deemed competent and awarded the qualification.

Approved centres and their role

Approved centres are the administrative hubs for vocational qualifications. An approved centre is responsible for:

- the oversight, administration and registration of the learners
- recruitment, management and competence of the assessors
- quality assurance of assessment across the centre.

Approved centres will be monitored by the Awarding Organisation to ensure they meet standards and requirements set out by the Awarding Organisation. Examples of requirements that an Awarding Organisation may set out include an Equality and Diversity policy, Health and Safety policy and Complaints policy. The Awarding Organisation will also want to know the predicted number of learners expected to enrol on the qualification before approving an organisation as a centre.

Assessors and their role

To ensure learner competency and to maintain quality within the qualification and the screening workforce qualified assessors will be required within each local programme.

Assessors will observe learners in their workplace, provide support and guidance by collecting evidence, assessing the learner's knowledge and skills and enabling them to achieve their qualification. They will be expected to make an informed judgement about the range of evidence a learner may produce to demonstrate their competence to meet the assessment criteria of the qualification. The assessor role can be as part of a wider role within an organisation's training department. Personnel within the screening programme may opt to be an assessor as part of their main job role.

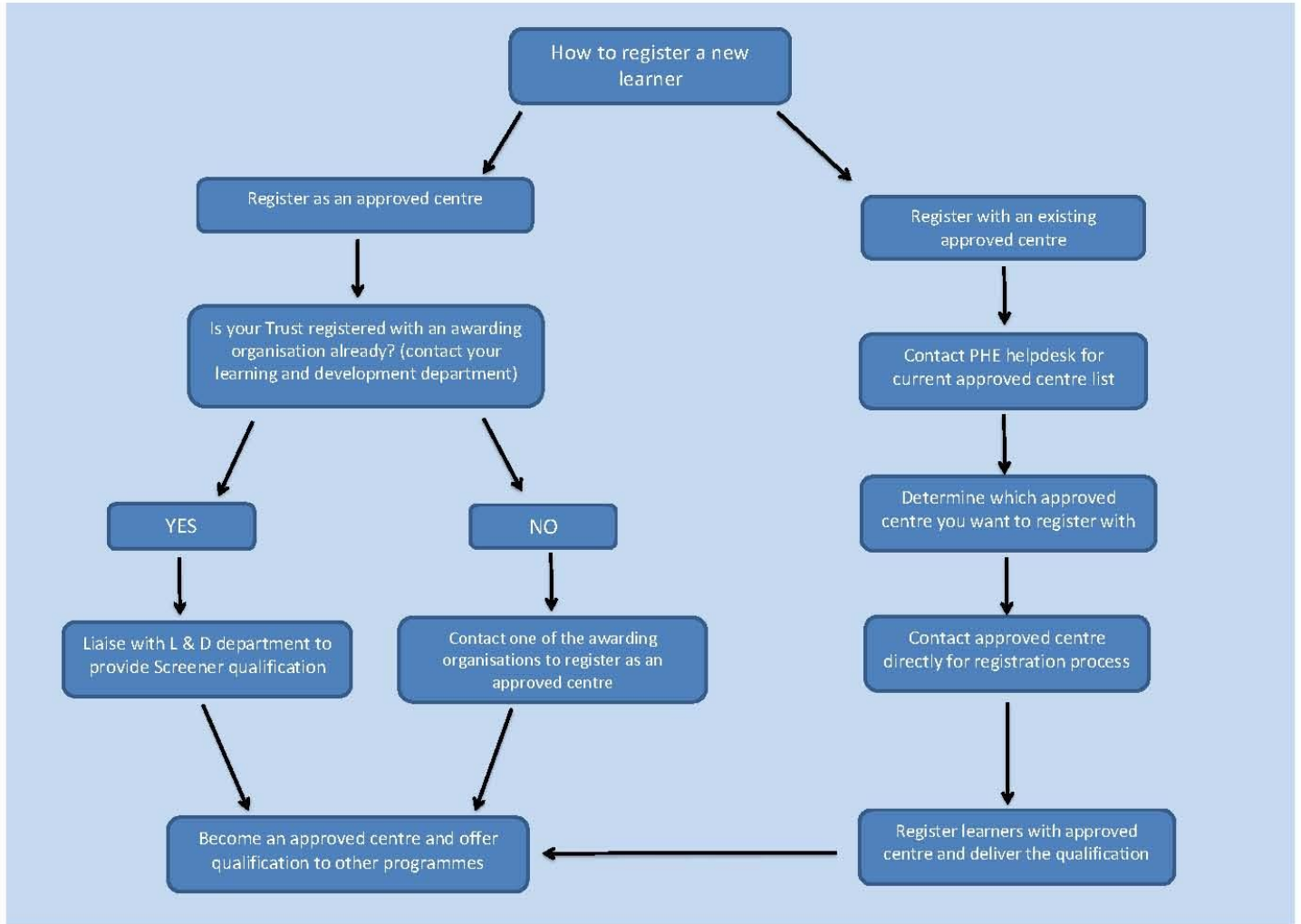
With experience, assessors can also work as an internal or external verifier, in conjunction with an assessment centre they can perform quality assurance checks on the work of assessors and training centres, to make sure assessment processes are being carried out properly.

The Awarding Organisation you choose will set out the competence, qualification and experience requirements for assessors.

To register a new learner to undertake the Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners, local programmes have two options;

- Register as an approved centre
- Register new learners with an existing approved centre

A flow chart of the process is outlined below



Infographic used with permission of Public Health England

Additional resources

Ofqual website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>

The Register of Regulated Qualifications website: <https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>

Skills for Health website: www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Public Health England Screening CPD website: <http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk/>