

QUALIFICATIONS TEAM UPDATE May 2009

UPDATE FOCUS:

- **Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) Migration Planning**
 - **Redevelopment of S/NVQ Qualifications**
 - **The Endorsement and Development of new QCF Qualifications**
 - **Sector Qualifications Strategy - Action Planning**
 - **High Education Demonstration Sites**
 - **International Education Conference**
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QCF MIGRATION PLANNING

Work is well underway in re-developing qualifications which are currently accredited to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in readiness for its closure in December 2010. The new qualifications will be accredited to the new framework called the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). This work applies to all qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland but not to Scotland.

Skills for Health worked with the awarding bodies to agree a timetable for these re-developments and is now working with the awarding bodies and employer representatives to ensure that the new qualifications are fit for purpose.

For further information please contact: vicky.yearsley@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Programme Manager.

RE-DEVELOPMENT OF S/NVQ QUALIFICATIONS

Redevelopment of S/NVQ in Health and S/NVQ in Support Services

The redevelopment of the S/NVQ in Health and S/NVQ in Support Services and related VRQs has now begun in earnest. Awarding bodies and sector representatives have signed up to join a series of Unit Writing Groups and several of these have now started work, with more starting throughout the year ahead and into 2010. There are 25 groups identified and their role is to write new units and qualifications for the QCF. A further, separate group will redevelop the SVQ.

We are following the Learning Design Principles within this work and are keen to ensure that the sector is active in producing units and qualifications that truly reflect their needs and the reality of

their everyday workplaces. In order to do this we have set up a panel of self-selecting sector representatives who are actively engaged in the process, either directly joining the unit writing groups or reviewing the units, assessment strategy, qualification structures etc as they are written/developed. We also have a further network who have asked to receive information only. If any of your contacts wish to find out more, please ask them to email qualifications@skillsforhealth.org.uk for more details.

For a copy of the project plan, outline meeting dates, or additional background information, please contact lucy.blinko@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Project Lead.

Work has recently commenced on the Maternity Pathway and up and coming pathways to commence in the next quarter, include: Blood Donor, Perioperative Care, Ambulance Services, Mental Health and Counselling.

Redevelopment of S/NVQ - Panel and Virtual Networks

We are in the process of establishing x 2 virtual groups to establish internal / external stakeholder feedback: a Panel for those who want interactive involvement (eg taking part in unit writing or in giving feedback against draft units) and Virtual Networks' for those who only want to receive information / updates every quarter. Please get in touch if you are interested in being involved in either of this groups.

Substance Misuse QCF Migration

This project has now commenced. A meeting of all Awarding Bodies interested in reviewing all qualifications in this area was held on the 17th March and joint unit writing will shortly commence.. For more information please contact mary.rivers@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Project Lead.

Working in the Health Sector L2 & 3 QCF Unit Qualification Development

A group of Awarding Bodies have worked together to develop joint units and the Certificate Working in the Health Sector at Levels 2 and 3 is now complete. The Certificates were formally endorsed by the Endorsement Panel in February. They will act as stand alone underpinning knowledge qualifications as well as their main purpose of being the new Technical Certificates to underpin the Health NVQ and the Health Support Services NVQ. They will be included in the Health and Social Care Apprenticeship Framework . As they are based on the KSF the qualifications will be accessible to all sectors within health including those who do not have patient contact.

For further information please contact: mary.rivers@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Project Lead.

QCF/SVQ Pharmacy Services Qualifications Pharmacy Support Services SVQ/QCF Qualifications

This project has included the development of 32 new Pharmacy NOS over 2 phases, the writing of a new Assessment Strategy and the agreement of new Qualifications Structures at Level 2 and 3.

The work has been undertaken in partnership with representatives from the Pharmacy Sector across the 4 UK countries, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the Awarding Bodies and relevant Education Providers.

At the final Pharmacy Strategy Group in February the NOS, Assessment Strategy and Qualification Structures were finally signed. These have now been submitted to UKCES for final approval before they can be used in the development of the qualifications.

For further information, please contact: Amanda.hall@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Project Lead

Mental Health QCF Migration

Work has now commenced on scoping the Mental Health qualifications to be developed and reviewed for the QCF. A date for the first unit writing group has been set for the 14th July and invitations to attend will be sent to interested awarding bodies shortly.

For more information please contact amanda.hall@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Project Lead.

S/NVQ level 3 in Maternity and Paediatric pathway

SfH have prioritised this work for NQF migration to QCF, following sector feedback for an urgent review of the S/NVQ level 3 in Maternity and Paediatric pathway, which revisited the role(s), functions delivered and qualification need(s) for the Maternity / Paediatric Support Worker.

To address national employer needs, a scoping exercise took place in February 2009, with known key lead employers. Wider employer consultation took place in April 2009, to reaffirm the scoping for the learning pathway requirements in maternity services.

Preliminary recommendations received from the sector for the NVQ L3 NVQ in Health Maternity / Paediatric Pathway have included the need for a new underpinning knowledge unit, the reformation of the S/NVQ Level 3 into QCF units and establishment of links to Apprenticeship Frameworks

For further information, please contact: prabhjit.kaur@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Project Lead.

THE ENDORSEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW QUALIFICATIONS

Learning Innovation Development Group

This group considers applications for support in principle prior to the development of *new* qualifications from Awarding Bodies and Employers.

To date we have received applications for a variety of subjects, some of which will be taken forward and others that we may not necessarily support for future development. Subjects being further developed or investigated include: Maternity; Counselling; Mental Health; Decontamination; Reflexology; First Aid; Orthopaedic Practitioner; Community 1st Responders. For further information, please contact: lynne.gough@skillsforhealth.org.uk

Qualifications Endorsement Panel

The panel meets on a monthly basis to endorse new qualifications developed by Awarding Bodies for the QCF. New qualifications applications are received by the first working day of the month to be considered by the Panel that month.

The new application form is available via the SfH website. It has also been sent to all awarding body representatives.

All existing qualifications on the NQF that require extension have now been extended by a blanket extension process until 31 December 2010 whilst they are developed for the QCF. For further information please contact: Linda.hardy@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Manager.

Forms for the LIDG and Endorsement Panel can be found on our website.

SECTOR QUALIFICATIONS STRATEGY - ACTION PLANNING

Refreshment of SQS Action Plans 2009-2011

SfH, along with all other SSCs is producing new Action Plans to demonstrate activities for the 2 year period 2009-2011. There will be 4 plans, one for each of the home nations.

The Qualifications Division has been working with every Country and Regional Director to undertake a series of consultation activities across the UK to enable employers to inform the content of the Action Plans. Part of the Awarding Body Forum in March 09 was dedicated to Action Plans to enable Awarding Bodies to feedback and comment and other divisions within SfH will also be informing the content of the Plans.

Action Plans have to be completed by June 09 and submitted to UKCES using a pre-determined template. Qualifications outcomes and associated information will be input and maintained within a web-based system commissioned by UKCES. For further information please contact: vicky.yearsley@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Programme Manager.

HIGHER EDUCATION (HE) DEMONSTRATION SITES

The work of the HE Demonstration sites is still forging ahead. 9 sites have developed validated competence-based learning packages and of these, 6 have students either enrolled, undertaking or having completed packages of learning. Of the remaining sites, the majority are in the final stages of identifying NOS required and developing their programmes with some due for validation over the next couple of months. The Site Project Facilitators have risen to the challenge of testing the learning design principles, fantastic partnerships have grown and we have all learnt a huge amount along the way. We have noticed the spread of awareness and understanding, particularly about the use and understanding of NOS.

As individuals, the Project Facilitators have become very active ambassadors for SfH and the Learning Design Principles approach, proactively increasing their knowledge and understanding of what our products can do for the Sector. Many have also volunteered for supplementary pieces of work.

The HE Demonstration sites run for a total of 3 years and several of the sites are now beginning the final stage of the process which centres on evaluation (process/journey), student experience and the impact on the workplace. 3 of the sites started late and are consequently at the early stages of their journey. However, they have found the Active Facilitator's Network invaluable in giving them advice and support and the phased approach of implementation has proved useful.

Relevant regional and country Skills for Health staff have been actively involved with many of the sites as they develop. For a list of the HE Demonstration Sites or further information about their network please email lucy.blinko@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Project Lead.

Competences in Education Design

Work has commenced on delivery of the Masters level module on utilising competences in HR and Education design. SfH staff are delivering this at 3 Universities and the first delivery has been completed with Thames Valley University. The education is spread over 2 two day blocks. The first block comprises presentations and debates on the issues and the second block involves the students feeding back on posters based on their wider reading and understanding of the first two days in the context of their work. Students presented some excellent feedback and we are awaiting their assignments. For more details contact paul.blakeman@skillsforhealth.org.uk, Divisional Manager.

International Education Conference - Article and Abstract

Paul Blakeman has recently submitted an abstract to the International Technology, Education and Development Conference in Valencia on 9th – 11th March 2009. This presentation was very well received and generated a lot of interest. He was asked to join one of special three round table events. There were 612 participants and delegates from 61 countries with every continent represented. The full article is published in the conference proceedings (ISBN:978-84-612-7578-6) and is to be published in the Journal of US-China Educational Review. Please e-mail paula.youd@skillsforhealth.org.uk for a copy of the Abstract.

WHO'S WHO IN QUALIFICATIONS

Name	Role	Current areas of work
Paul Blakeman	Divisional Manager	Leader of the Division Strategic and operational lead for the work of the Division
Dawn Probert	Programme Manager	QCF migration Health S/NVQ SQS Wales and N Ireland Qualifications Lead for Wales and N Ireland S/NVQ Dental Nursing Pharmacy NOS and Qualifications Project
Vicky Yearsley	Programme Manager	QCF migration SQS Action Planning Qualifications lead for Scotland S/NVQ in Health and Support Services
Hilary Wyles	Programme Manager	14-19 Qualifications
Lynne Gough	Manager	Learning Innovation Development Group, SQS Support S/NVQ Support Services and QCF Migration for First Aid & Ambulance Services
Mary Rivers	Manager	Endorsement Panel Substance Misuse QCF Migration
Prabhjit Kaur	Manager	S/NVQ Health and Social Care Maternity Pathway QCF migration First Aid QCF Unit Group
Lucy Blinks	Manager	S/NVQ Health and Support Services redevelopment
Amanda Hall	Manager	Pharmacy Services Qualifications Mental Health QCF migration Optical Services QCF Migration
Sophie Hughes	Assistant Manager	QCF Migration Co-ordination Divisional Communications Co-ordination of Qualifications in SfH Health Footprint
Paula Youd	Team Administrator / Support Officer	Supporting the Qualifications Team in SQS, S/NVQ, QCF Migration and Division activities

HAVE YOUR SAY

Are there any other areas of our work that you would like to be informed of?

Please feel free to have your say by emailing: qualifications@skillsforhealth.org.uk