

November 2010

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Care - new qualifications

A whole range of new qualifications are being developed by Skills for Care in partnership with awarding organisations. There will be many different units (or parts of qualifications) that reflect what workers should 'know' and 'do' which make up a number of different qualifications.

The current Health and Social Care (HSC) NVQs level 2 and 3 will be replaced by Health and Social Care (HSC) Diplomas at Level 2 and 3. These will be launched in January 2011.

There will be options to take a generic HSC Diploma or a specialist dementia pathway or learning disability pathway, which will allow learners to tailor their learning to their job role. The current learning disability qualification (LDQ) will not exist on the QCF. The learning disability pathway will provide a new way for learners to gain contextualised knowledge and skills around supporting individuals with learning disabilities.

The current leadership and management in care services (formerly the Registered Managers award) and the Health and Social Care (HSC) NVQ level 4 will become a combined qualification at level 5. The difference in levels reflects differences between the current framework and the QCF. This qualification will also be launched January 2011.

Existing qualifications will be recognised at an equivalent level, so those staff who are qualified will not have to repeat their qualification. The QCF gives the flexibility to link units studied into relevant qualifications as appropriate, and in some cases will also allow non-accredited prior experience and knowledge to be taken into account. This is formally known as recognition of prior learning (RPL). It is a term used with the QCF to ensure learners do not repeat learning. The RPL system allows certificated and un-certificated learning to be

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recognised, providing it meets the learning outcomes of the units. Further information should be sought from individual awarding organisations.

New Assessor and Verifier Awards

Lifelong Learning UK has produced this document as a guide to new qualifications developed for the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) which cover assessment and the quality assurance of assessment.

New qualifications for assessors:

- Level 3 Award in Understanding the Principles and Practices of Assessment
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement
- Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement

New qualifications for internal quality assurance staff (sometimes known as 'internal verifiers'):

- Level 4 Award in Understanding the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
- Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
- Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice

New qualifications for external quality assurance staff (sometimes known as 'external verifiers')

- Level 4 Award in Understanding the External Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
- Level 4 Award in the External Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
- Level 4 Certificate in Leading the External Quality Assurance of Assessment Practice

The new qualifications will supersede the following in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF):

- Level 3 Award in Assessing Candidates' Performance Using a Range of Methods ('A1')
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Candidates' Performance through Observation ('A2')

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The magazine for professionals in verification and assessment

- Level 4 Award in Conducting Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process ('V1')
- Level 4 Award in Conducting External Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process ('V2')

The **Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement** will be valuable to ensure that staff assessing non-NVQ or non-competence-based vocational qualifications within the QCF on a 'devolved' basis meet agreed standards of assessment.

The **Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement** will be appropriate for those whose role involves the assessment of both occupational competence and vocationally related achievement.

There are knowledge units for each assessor and quality assurance role which are available as one unit Awards which will be valuable for those who would like an understanding of these roles but are not yet in a position to practice.

LLUK are working with awarding organisations to ensure new qualifications are made available no later Jan 2011.

Extracts from

Assessing and assuring the quality of assessment for further information visit www.lluk.org/4484.htm

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