

September 2013

1. The qualifications and standards

<p>Assessment Team:</p>	<p>Findings: In most cases, the assessment team were able to talk to candidates and/or see a session in progress. Where it is possible, the latter allows the External Verifier to gain greater insight into the work being undertaken.</p> <p>The Team has seen some interesting business ideas and have been able to support and encourage both staff and candidates in their work. One member of the Team spent quite some time learning how a candidate in an HMP was going to implement his business plan to help young people not offend.</p>
<p>Resources:</p>	<p>Findings: Overall all centres had at least satisfactory resources with some being excellent. Due to the nature of many of the centres offering the qualification direct access to the internet was not always available. This places a lot of pressure on the tutors to provide necessary material indirectly.</p> <p>It was good to see some centres making use of outside business experience through activities such as 'Dragons' Den' or by former candidates revisiting to tell the current ones about their experiences in setting up a business.</p> <p>All the staff delivering the courses are suitably qualified with some having ran their own business.</p>
<p>Candidate Support:</p>	<p>Findings: All centres have good candidate support. In some cases the support needs to be more fully documented. Individual Learning Plans are now used by all the centres.</p> <p>Unit certification is now available in centres, though funding issues were causing some problems with this until July.</p> <p>As one report noted: "Prior to starting the course, all learners are invited to an awareness day to discover what</p>

	<p>the course entails. They then go on a 2 day course to learn about self-employment before having an induction covering course content, details of support available, appeals procedure etc.</p> <p>The learner handbooks cover all policies and procedures and how assessment is carried out. The number of learners starting their own successful businesses reflects on the quality and support given by the centre staff”.</p>
<p>Assessment and Verification:</p>	<p>Findings: Assessment and verification is carried out by suitably qualified staff.</p> <p>Centres use a good and appropriate range of assessment methods. During the year the External Verifiers have been encouraging and supporting centres in extending this range.</p> <p>The centre assessor uses an appropriate range of assessment methods, personal statements, written questions and assignments, work products and they are now using the observation of a presentation for unit 4, legal requirements.</p>
<p>Management Systems and Records:</p>	<p>Findings: The vast majority of centres maintain good records which are easily accessible. Where this is not the case the Centres are working hard at improving their systems and ensuring record keeping is fully documented.</p> <p>The introduction of the new revised schemes has generally been fully noted and implemented, but again a few centres do not seem to be completely informed on these changes. External Verifiers have worked to ensure that the changes are fully implemented.</p> <p>In a very few cases the management system has resulted in information on visits and dates not being responded to or being passed on to the staff responsible. External Verifiers’ visits are not only required, but are the only way of ensuring that internal assessment decisions are confirmed.</p>
<p>Assessment Summary:</p>	<p>Findings: Level 2 had by far the largest number of registrations and qualifications gained. Although only 60 per cent of candidates gained the full award this can be explained by the shifting nature of the population in most centres. Nearly all the candidates did gain, however, individual unit awards.</p> <p>Overall internal assessment and verification was supported by the External Verifiers who considered that assessment methods were good and led to some very interesting work and business ideas.</p>

2. Sector Developments

As Chief Verifier you are the technical expert for your sector and we rely on you to pass that expertise on to OCR. Describe any developments that you are aware of within your sector, which may impact on current and future qualifications and related activities.

1. Review of qualifications being carried out at A and GCSE Levels may affect the qualifications although as the majority of candidates are in Tertiary education any short term effect is likely to be very limited.
2. OCR has launched an Entrepreneurial qualification. Pressure on banks and the development of new banks may enable centres to get greater support in areas such as finance and business plans.
3. The continuing high levels of unemployment make the need for the large majority of candidates to gain knowledge of and a qualification in business enterprise to prepare them for the future.