



RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

Coventry Office  
Westwood Way  
Coventry  
CV4 8JQ

Telephone 024 76 470033  
Facsimile 024 76 468080  
[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

**To: The NVQ Co-ordinator – Health and Social Care NVQ centres**

July 2009

Dear Colleague

**LATEST UPDATE FOR OCR NVQS IN:**

- **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**
- **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT FOR CARE SERVICES**
- **LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Over the past months, we have continued to explore how we can expand on the support we already provide to centres delivering qualifications in this sector.

As a result, I am pleased to draw your attention to the following series of articles in the appendix to this letter which sets out the support that is available to you from OCR. I hope that you find these helpful.

We have also provided information on a new suite of qualifications which assess core transferable workplace skills and which may be of relevance to the health and social care workforce.

The articles are on the following:

- 1 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document
- 2 OCR's NVQ Regional Training programme
- 3 INSET Training events
- 4 E-community for NVQs in the health and social care sector
- 5 OCR's new Employability Skills qualifications
- 6 OCR's response to changes for qualifications in this sector

If you have any queries or need further information, please contact us through our Customer Contact Centre either by phone on 024 76 851509; or by email on [vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk](mailto:vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Nicoline Hunt  
Qualifications Manager  
Qualifications Division

## Appendix

### 1 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document

You will be aware that the partnership of awarding bodies offering NVQs and VRQs in the health and social care sectors produce a document which provides clarification on the interpretation of the standards. We are pleased to let you know that this document has now been updated and the 2009/10 version can now be downloaded from the web pages for the NVQs in this sector on OCR's website at [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

### 2 NVQ Regional Training programme

An outline of OCR's NVQ Regional Training programme can be found on OCR's website - I have attached a link below to where this information can be found.

[http://www.ocr.org.uk/training/events\\_and\\_networks.html](http://www.ocr.org.uk/training/events_and_networks.html)

These are generic training events, for example on NVQ assessment, verification and standardisation, etc. Centres new to the delivery of NVQs may find these events helpful.

### 3 INSET Training events

We would like to give you advance notice of two INSET training events on the Level 4 NVQ in Leadership and Management for Care Services, which were launched in August 2008. The events will take place as follows:

London – Wednesday 16 September 2009

Birmingham - Thursday 1 October 2009

These events are aimed at those delivering and assessing this qualification at centres and will cover the key issues related to the planning, delivery and assessment of this qualification. In addition there will be opportunity to look at candidate evidence, to clarify assessment issues as well as sharing good practice with other centres.

You can find further information as well as book a place on this event by going to OCR's website – I have provided a link to the web page below.

[http://www.ocr.org.uk/training/programme\\_ac.html](http://www.ocr.org.uk/training/programme_ac.html)

### 4 Establishment of an OCR e-community for the NVQs in the health and social care sector

In order to extend the support we provide to centres, we are pleased to let you know that we have established an e-community for the NVQs in the health and social care sector. The e-community is a mailing list service where any member can post a message which is seen by all the other members.

To use this service, you will need to subscribe to and become a member of the Health and Social Care NVQ e-community.

The community is run by members, for members and is a resource to help centres share information and good practice – a bit like an electronic networking meeting.

Further information about OCR e-communities, including a members' guide, can be found on OCR's website at

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/ecommunities/>

We hope that you will find this e-community a useful forum to discuss issues related to these qualifications.

## **5 OCR's new Employability Skills qualifications (Ready, Steady, Work)**

OCR has recently launched a suite of QCF qualifications which are aimed at preparing learners, either those in full time education, those on vocational training programmes or adult returners to work, for employment. The qualifications are available at Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2 and assess core transferable workplace skills. The assessment criteria are not set within a context and centres can contextualise the units to the learner's chosen vocational or workplace situation. As such these qualifications allow for a unique personalised approach for learners and an opportunity to enhance particular sector knowledge and skills.

We feel that these qualifications may be of relevance to the workforce in the health and social care sector and we would encourage you to look at what these qualifications can offer learners.

Further information on these qualifications, including the unit specifications and guidance on acceptable evidence can be downloaded from OCR's website on [http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocationally-relatedcertificate/ready\\_steady\\_work/index.html](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocationally-relatedcertificate/ready_steady_work/index.html)

## **6 OCR's response to changes for qualifications in this sector**

You will be aware that OCR's existing NVQs in the health and social care sector will be redeveloped and accredited onto the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) over the next 12-18 months. We would like to reassure you that OCR will keep you fully informed of progress with the redevelopment and will let you know the structure and assessment strategies of the new QCF qualifications as these become available.

In the meantime, centres can continue to register candidates on the current NVQs until 31 December 2010 and the existing arrangements for these qualifications will remain unchanged until that date.

In the meantime you can find information on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) on the 'Home Page' on OCR's website under **Popular resources - Documents** on the following topics:

- What is the Qualifications Credit Framework?
- QCF Structure
- How It Works In Practice

The QCF information will be updated regularly with the latest developments.