



qualifications and credit framework

an introduction

The QCF is a new flexible way of recognising and rewarding the skills and knowledge of learners through the development of units and qualifications designed to meet the needs of employers. There will be many different units that reflect what workers should 'know' and 'do' which make up a number of different qualifications.

Why do we need the QCF?

As a sector we face a number of challenges and changes including:

- Meeting workforce requirements with limited resources
- Ensuring workers have the right skills and knowledge to do the job
- The changing needs of people who use services
- The changing ways in which services are configured. New Types of Working (NToW) highlights the varied way that services are structured to meet the needs of people who use services
- The development of the personalisation agenda means there are new skills and knowledge requirements
- There are a wide range of retention issues and many employers find it difficult to recruit.

Learners will be able to study units and/or qualifications relevant to their job role and/or chosen career pathway. 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.

What should we be doing about qualifications for workers between now and the introduction of QCF?

Current qualifications will remain valid. The decision about which qualification to take rests with the manager but it is our view that training and registration for qualifications should continue.

In the next edition you will find information on the new qualifications being developed and more detail on how the new QCF will work.