

clear progression

Moving towards an Integrated Qualifications Framework

We welcome the ambitions of the Children's Plan and the new measures to promote the welfare of children and young people and step changes for more integrated working. We will work closely with CWN members to ensure that social care continues to make a significant contribution to improve the lives of children and see the IQF as a key means of delivering change and workforce reforms.

Mike Wardle, Chief Executive, General Social Care Council.

Edition 6 – January 2008

www.integratedqualificationsframework.co.uk

Welcome to the sixth edition of Clear Progression, the quarterly newsletter dedicated to bringing you the latest developments and news on the Integrated Qualifications Framework (IQF).

This special edition newsletter contains an update on the Children's Plan (2007) and the impact it will have on IQF developments, training and qualifications reform. There is also an update on current IQF activity in areas such as Foundation Degrees and IQF testing.

If you have a friend or colleague who you would like to sign up to receive further quarterly updates on the IQF, please send their email contact details to IQF@cwdcouncil.org.uk.

IQF Annual Conference 07-08

Delivering an Integrated Qualifications Framework for the Children and Young Peoples Workforce – 27 Feb 2008

The second Annual IQF Conference will take place on 27th February 2008 in central London.

The full day event will:

- Demonstrate the importance of the IQF in delivering the Government's Children Plan and Children's Workforce Action Plan.
- Provide an opportunity for all sectors to demonstrate their commitment to workforce reform.
- Provide an update on the current phase of the IQF developments.
- Reinforce the importance of training and qualifications in improving the outcomes for children and young people.

We can now confirm that Kevin Brennan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, will provide the keynote address. The Minister will set out the role for the workforce in supporting and delivering the Children's Plan.

Admission to the conference is strictly by invitation only. If you have received your invitation and have yet to register please do remember to do so as places are limited and on a first come first served basis.

A full conference summary will be available in the next IQF Newsletter.

Putting children high up the Government agenda

The end of 2007 saw the launch of the Children's Plan which heralded new, exciting plans for the children's workforce. The Children's Workforce Action Plan, due to be published by the end of February 2008, will describe how this vision will be achieved by Government and its partners.

Keep reading for an update on the latest news from Government on plans for the children's workforce.



The Children's Plan

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) published the Children's Plan on December 11th 2007. The Plan sets out a vision for children and children's services over the next decade, and aims to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. It follows a national consultation with children, parents, teachers and other professionals.

The Children's Plan includes strengthened support for all families during the formative early years of children's lives; the next steps in achieving world class schools and an excellent education for every child; plans to increase involvement of parents fully in their children's learning; and ideas to help to make sure that young people have interesting and exciting things to do outside of school, plus provision of more places for children to play safely.

The Children's Plan's vision is to put families at the centre of excellent, integrated services that put their needs first, regardless of traditional institutional and professional structures. This means a new leadership role for Children's Trusts in every area, a new role for schools as the centre of their communities and more effective links between schools, the NHS and other children's services so that together they can engage parents and tackle all the barriers to the learning, health and happiness of every child.

The Children's Workforce Action Plan

Following the Children's Plan, DCSF will publish its Children's Workforce Action Plan. It will set out a common vision, shared across central and local government, for the development of the workforce needed to deliver Every Child Matters and to implement the Children's Plan. It will also describe specific actions for everyone from central government to front line providers for the next three years to ensure we move further towards delivering a world class workforce. It will be of interest to everyone who works with children, young people and families, as well as those who lead and manage them.



For more information

Visit www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/

An update on IQF Activity



IQF Testing

Over the coming months, CWN members will be submitting qualifications developments through the IQF process to become IQF qualifications.

Each qualification will be developed in partnership between CWN members, giving IQF qualifications greater transferability across occupational groups in the workforce. This partnership approach reduces the risk of duplication of qualifications, as each CWN member will have an early opportunity to find out about each other's qualification developments and get involved in the process.

Once a qualification is approved for the IQF by the relevant Sector Skills Body and submitted to QCA for accreditation, information will be made available to learners, employers, training providers and awarding bodies as to which sectors of the children and young people's workforce will be using the qualification (or units from a qualification).

This partnership commitment is one of the 4 **'principles for inclusion'** that must be applied before any qualification or unit can be submitted to be included on the IQF (see previous newsletter for full details of the Inclusion Principles).

As this year of testing progresses, we will be carrying out a full evaluation in order to fine tune the principles and processes, with the overall aim of ensuring the IQF provides a qualification framework that helps improve integrated working and mobility across the children's workforce..

The testing phase of the IQF runs until October 2008.

Foundation Degree Gateway Project

As part of IQF development, CWN has commissioned a project to look at how Foundation Degrees are meeting the needs of the IQF for the children's workforce. The project will report effectiveness of foundation degrees in:

- meeting the needs of employers,
- supporting movement between different children's sectors and job roles,
- providing a bridge between vocational and HE qualifications.

For more information

Visit www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/pdf/IQF/Foundation_Degree_Briefing_Nov_07.pdf



All your questions answered...

The IQF Team have been developing useful resources to help members of the children's workforce understand what the IQF is and how it will impact on them.

Frequently asked questions

We are developing a frequently asked questions page (FAQs) on the IQF website. This resource aims to answer common questions received from members of the workforce with clear simple answers.

A selection of these questions is printed below.

To view the full list of FAQ's visit

www.integratedqualificationsframework.co.uk/

If you have a question which you would like an answer to, please email **iqf@cwdcouncil.org.uk**.

What is the Integrated Qualifications Framework ?

The Integrated Qualifications Framework is a set of approved qualifications that allows progression, continuing professional development and mobility across the children's workforce. It aims to ensure all qualifications are accessible, fit for purpose and recognisable across different occupational groups within the sector. The IQF will be available across England by 2010.

How will my existing qualification fit with the IQF?

Existing qualifications will still be valid. However, the IQF is not retrospective, therefore only new qualifications are eligible to be included, but it is expected that continuing professional development will keep you up to date with developments in the children's workforce.

What is happening next, in relation to IQF development?

New qualifications, and those qualifications being revised, are being submitted by CWN partners to pilot the collaboration process and inclusion principles over the coming year (until October 08). The IQF will be fully operational in 2010.

How will we know if the IQF is working?

The piloting phase will be fully evaluated, in order to iron out any technical difficulties and increase partners' capacity to collaborate in sharing units and qualifications. The evaluation will also begin to assess the difference the IQF is making, although the success of the IQF will not be able to be fully assessed until it is fully operational.

What happens next?

2008 is vital for the IQF as we move closer to launch in 2010.

Qualifications will continue to be identified for the IQF and our evaluation will help keep us on track.

Another key area of work is to continue to develop ways of ensuring the IQF includes higher education qualifications. The IQF project board, together with consultants New Directions, are currently exploring ways of ensuring HE institutions can submit qualifications for inclusion onto the IQF.

Frances Evesham

National Development Manager for Skills and Learning
January 2008

Want to find out more?

For more details on the IQF visit

www.integratedqualificationsframework.co.uk/
or CWN at **www.childrensworkforce.org.uk**
or email Frances Evesham at iqf@cwdcouncil.org.uk

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For further information on CWN's work and to subscribe to the CWN e-bulletin, please contact Hilary Barnard, Policy and Project Management Services for CWN at **hilarybarnard@aol.com**