

Clear progression

Towards an Integrated Qualifications Framework
for the children's workforce

Edition 7 – May 08



Welcome to the seventh edition of Clear Progression, the quarterly newsletter for the Integrated Qualifications Framework.

This newsletter focuses on the highlights from the IQF Annual Conference held in February and brings you more information on the 'Building Brighter Futures' report which details steps to achieving the goals set out in the [Children's Plan](#) (2007).

Remember, 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.

Implementing the Children's Plan

The Children's Plan aims to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. Schools, children's services, the voluntary sector and Government all need to play their part to achieve this aim - working to support children, young people and their families.

In March 2008, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) released [Building Brighter Futures: next steps for the children's workforce](#).

This document sets out the actions Government is taking to build on existing investment; to further

improve the skills and capacity of people who work with children and deliver the high-quality, personalised and integrated services detailed in the Children's Plan.

The report also includes details of a new Expert Group for the Children's Workforce made up of champions from different parts of the children's workforce. The work of the Expert Group (to be published in autumn 2008) will inform the long-term strategy for development of a world-class children's workforce.

Full information is available at www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/implement.shtml

Delivering an Integrated Qualifications Framework

IQF Annual Conference 2007-8

“ The conference showed the commitment from all of our Children’s Workforce Network (CWN) partners in working together to achieve our goals of both an Integrated Qualifications Framework, and the wider goal of delivering better outcomes for all children.

I very much look forward to the next stage of the IQF project as we actively work to make our qualifications more integrated with each other, based on the Common Core and profession specific requirements. ”

Deirdre Quill, Director of Delivery, CWDC & Chair, IQF Project Board.



The 2008 IQF Annual Conference, held at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster and chaired by Paul Ennals (right), CWN chair, was a resounding success. With wide representation from across CWN and strong support from Government, the conference was well received by delegates and helped to focus the CWN and IQF project board on the next stages of development as the IQF begins to be populated. Nearly 200 delegates attended from a range of organisations including many local authorities, higher education institutions, further education, the police, a number of voluntary organisations and Government Office.



Kevin Brennan (right), Under-secretary of State for Children, Young people and Families acknowledged the changes towards integrated working that have taken place so far. The minister highlighted the culture change required to take this further to create sustainable integration. He drew attention to the need for all of us to challenge traditional perceptions of certain roles within the children’s workforce, and to recognise the need for transferable skills and common knowledge whilst retaining specialisms. He emphasised the importance of the IQF in delivering these goals. The minister, aided by Anne Frost, Deputy Director, Workforce Development Division, DCSF, then responded to a number of questions from the floor.



Hillary Emery and Jane Haywood, CWN vice chairs, discussed in an open panel forum the need for an integrated approach to working with children. They discussed employers' commitment to training and development of the workforce, and the difficulties they find in accessing the most appropriate training. Hilary and Jane praised the work completed on the design of the IQF so far, and its role in helping to create qualifications that are shared between sectors, responsive to the needs of employers and learners and specifically chosen to be the most appropriate to job functions.

Deirdre Quill, CWDC Director of Delivery and Chair of the IQF project board, then gave an overview of the IQF vision and design, highlighting the commitment from each CWN member to work together in developing qualifications to meet the needs of an integrated workforce. Deirdre outlined the qualifications currently being tested, and how the results of the testing will feed into the project evaluation (see box, bottom right).

Finally, Angela Joyce from Lifelong Learning UK, spoke on how the UK Vocational Qualifications Reform is changing the way qualifications are delivered. She explained how the IQF is ahead of the game by applying these reforms to the children's workforce. Angela also described how the IQF is working in practice by telling the story of the LLUK Family Learning suite of qualifications.



Clear Progression 2008

The conference also launched, 'Clear Progression 2008: The IQF Implementation Plan'. This update gives details on the IQF vision, the design work completed to date, a number of qualifications identified to test the IQF principles and process and the next steps in development towards a completed framework.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended the event and helped make the day such a success. We will continue to keep you informed on IQF developments through future newsletters and the IQF website.

Powerpoint presentation files from the conference will be made available for download on the IQF website at www.IQF.org.uk

Qualifications being tested:

Early Years to Playwork Transition

Lead: SkillsActive

Purpose: To enable those qualified to level 3 in early years and childcare to gain recognition to work in a playwork setting.

Family Learning

Lead: Lifelong Learning UK

Purpose: To recognise and improve the skills of those working with families, and offer appropriate training to those wishing to move into the field.

Playwork to Early Years Transition

Lead: The Children's Workforce Development Council

Purpose: To enable those qualified to level 3 in playwork to gain recognition to work in an early years and childcare setting.

Supporting Teaching and Learning

Lead: The Training and Development Agency for Schools

Purpose: To recognise the changing roles of supporting staff in schools as the range of services delivered in schools are extended.

Working with Vulnerable Young People

Lead: Skills for Justice

Purpose: To recognise and improve the skills of those working with vulnerable young people, and offer appropriate training to those wishing to move into the field.

Ensuring the IQF works for Higher Education

CWN are hosting five regional consultation events with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) during the period to the end of April 2008. Events are being held in Exeter, London, Preston, York and Birmingham with the aim of discussing how higher education qualifications can become part of the IQF. Each event recaps on the progress of the IQF to date, the role of CWN and provides an explanation as to what CWN are trying to achieve with the IQF at HE level.

There are several inter-related aims for the IQF at HE level:

- sector support - fitness for purpose
- encouraging HEIs to incorporate the Common Core in their programmes
- encouraging the development of inter-professional approaches in programmes for people working with children, young people, their families and carers
- meeting the needs of the new types of workers
- progression from Vocational Education and Training.

Currently CWN are trialling vocational qualifications on the IQF and the next step will be to trial HE qualifications. The consultations look at how the proposed procedures might work in practice for HE, the timing of IQF procedures and the need for separate guidance for HEIs. A full report in the form of a newsletter will be issued at the end of the consultations.

A note from Frances, Evesham, Project Lead, IQF

Thank you to everyone who attended our IQF conference – judging by the feedback, delegates thought it was a stimulating and relevant event.

Launching the 2008 edition of Clear Progression has given us an opportunity to consider the achievements of the IQF project so far, and clarify the work that we'll be doing over the coming months.

Over the next few months the evaluation of the IQF principles and processes will also be well under way, led by Price Waterhouse Coopers. We will also be scoping the IT requirements for when the IQF goes live so that the IQF will be as accessible as possible.

We are pleased that the IQF development is on track and look forward to the results of the HE consultations. These will enable us to pilot higher education qualifications for inclusion on the IQF – a very exciting development.

Want to find out more?

For more details on the IQF visit CWDC at www.cwdcouncil.org.uk, CWN at www.childrensworkforce.org.uk or email Frances Evesham at IQF@cwdcouncil.org.uk

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

The IQF is being developed by the members of the Children's Workforce Network (CWN). The IQF Project Board has representation from all CWN members. The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is project managing the development of the IQF on behalf of CWN.



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