

# clear progression

## towards an Integrated Qualifications Framework

The development of the IQF is a vital step if we want to create a workforce that is passionate about making a positive difference to the lives of children and young people and their life chances.  
Beverley Hughes, Children's Minister

Newsletter: Third Edition

December 2006

**This is the third edition of the Integrated Qualifications Framework (IQF) Newsletter, updating you on the progress of developing and implementing an IQF for the children's workforce.**

On 1 November, a second very successful national conference was held, with an audience of more than 100 delegates from diverse backgrounds. All had a common interest – improving the lives of children, young people, their families and carers through developing and valuing a competent and confident children's workforce.

A summary report of the conference is being developed and in this newsletter, we highlight some of the key 'quotes' from the conference which help to demonstrate the energy generated by delegates. We also provide an update of progress being made in the various workstreams, to move the development process forward.

Whilst the conference was an opportunity to reach out to the wider children's workforce and communicate the vision of the IQF, good progress is being made on the ground in terms of meeting the milestones of the IQF development plan.

The work is being co-ordinated by CWDC and each workstream is led by a member of the Children's Workforce Network (CWN).

### Quotes from the conference

**The development of the IQF is a hugely ambitious, complex and challenging undertaking. But no single organisation can deliver the changes required. We will only succeed through collaboration and active engagement.**

Beverley Hughes, Children's Minister

**The IQF will be an expression of us having one world-class children's workforce.**

Deirdre Quill, Director of Delivery, CWDC

**I love the idea of having units of assessment underpinning people's career progression.**

Quote from a conference delegate

## Framework Design and Criteria for Inclusion

The IQF is designed to link with both the emerging qualifications and credit framework and the framework for higher education qualifications. A key development here is the negotiation of an agreement with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority<sup>1</sup> which will allow CWDC, on behalf of the children's workforce, to be directly involved in the Test and Trials of the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The first units to be developed will be a suite of generic transferable units based on the Common Core. The second set of units will be based on the recently developed Early Years Foundation Stage training. The IQF is being designed in parallel with the QCF and these units will form the basis of the first qualifications to be included on the IQF.

## Vocational Education and Training

A crucial development in this area is the establishment of the IQF Awarding Body Forum. We shall be working in close collaboration with the awarding bodies over the next few months to develop qualifications based on the units in the QCF Test and Trials.

## 2007 and beyond

**Early in 2007, we shall be consulting on the first draft of common generic units. These will be informed by the Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the children's workforce and developed in the IQF format. These will be at three levels - 2, 3 and 4 on the new QCF.**

We will also be working with colleagues to develop units to support the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The Primary National Strategies and DfES are developing briefing and training and development materials to support the introduction of the new EYFS. We will use these to inform the development of appropriate units at level 3 on the IQF and QCF.

Our third priority area will be based on the existing level 3 transitional awards for playworkers and early years workers. Our work with higher education colleagues will continue with the aim of including higher education qualifications within the Framework.

This has been an exciting year for CWDC and its CWN partners in terms of progressing the development of the IQF. We look forward to an even more exciting 2007. Thank you for your continued interest, commitment and support. It is the spirit and enthusiasm of all stakeholders that will make sure the IQF becomes a reality.

## Higher Education (HE) and Professional Qualifications

An HE Reference Group has been established to advise the Project Board on how to ensure that the IQF links with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. Preliminary discussions have begun to explore how to develop a suite of generic learning outcomes that are recognised by and transferable between Higher Education Institutions.

## Consultation and Communication

We will be sending out some additional information for employers early in the new year. Plans are being made for a series of regional conferences for both higher education and vocational education and training interests, including employers. This will help to ensure that all areas of the children's workforce are informed of and committed to the development and implementation of the IQF. These are likely to be run from March – July 2007. Details of venues and dates will be posted on the CWDC and CWN websites in the new year.

<sup>1</sup> The Regulatory Authority for all publicly funded non-advanced qualifications in England

### Jargon and Acronyms

As with most developments, the IQF has developed a language of its own! Although we try to keep the use of jargon to a minimum, it does creep in. That's why we've developed a web-based Glossary of Terms, including acronyms. For details visit the IQF page of the CWDC website.

For more details please visit CWDC at [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk),  
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