

Open College Network qualifications

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Open College Network (OCN)

- General scope and principles
- A local working example
- Changes afoot...

Benefits of OCN framework

- Flexible for learners: 'bite size'
- Democratic nature of network:
28 area OCNs
- Widely applicable
- National quality assured
- Rigorous moderation
- Inclusive, learner centred

OCN within national adult learning context

- 'New kid on the block'
- Employer perception
- Growth in provision
- Voluntary sector share of provision

Accreditation: a local example

- Cot-age Child Safety, Sheffield
 - Refurbishes donated nursery items (cots, stair gates, etc) and redistributes to families
 - Has an associated wood recycling project: - compost bins, benches, fencing for child play areas made from used pallets, etc.
- OCN programme 3541 - Wood products: recovery, refurbishment and recycling

OCN 3541: make-up

- 10 units at two levels: entry and level one (1 unit = 30 guided learning hours)
- Entry level: from 'scratch'; no prior knowledge assumed
- Level one: developing a basic level of skill
- Funding: from LSC via Objective One
- Running a programme: detailed guides available

Adult skills agenda: changes afoot..

- Recent Government documents revising national skills strategies:
 - ‘Success for All’;
 - ’21st Century Skills – realising our potential’
- Developing a national qualifications framework (NQF)
- Structural funding reviews of adult learning by LSC; affects all
- 14-19 strategy review: our sector something to offer?

OCN Credit and Qualifications Framework (CQF)

- Unitised provision of 10 hours (not 30) from Sept. '04
- Also rolling out phase 1 of CQF in 15 'subject areas'
- New programmes: aim to fit within CQF

Implications?

- Future funding scenarios?
- Workplace learning recognised to greater degree?
- Role of 3rd sector?: trickledown effect not yet clear
- Contact your local OCN to keep in touch

Contacts

- www.nocn.org.uk
- www.dfes.gov.uk
- www.lsc.gov.uk

AND...

....don't

forget

the

day

job!