Curriculum delivery and keeping abreast of changes!

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N/OCN Overview

National Open College Network (NOCN) is an Awarding Body in the UK accredited by the Regulatory Authorities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Open College Networks (OCNs) are licensed by NOCN. They are locally managed, not-for-profit organisations committed to providing a flexible and responsive local accreditation service for a wide range of learning activities.

NOCN Vision

"To be at the forefront of a comprehensive national Credit Accumulation and Transfer system, and recognised for promoting social inclusion, wider participation and community transformation."

N/OCN Offender Learning Provision

c1996 Nationally accredited credit-based programmes devised with OLSU

04/2005 NOCN Qualifications for Progression approved in NQF includes units from Social and Life Skills programme

01/2006 QCF Test and Trial project

- Reviewed qualifications to meet QCF requirements
- Aim to certificate existing unaccredited learning and to recognise skills to support employability opportunities with aim of contributing to reducing re-offending
- Received project funding from LSC and QCA

2007 ESF EQUAL Engage project – accrediting learning (Unpaid Work and OBPs using NOCN qualifications)

01/2007 NOCN Qualifications in Progression approved in QCF

N/OCN Offender Learning Provision

09/2008	QCF confirmed, OCNs support transition from NQF to QCF qualifications
early 2009	NOCN qualifications approved on Foundation Learning Qualification Catalogue
2009/10	Ongoing support for offender learning providers. Review and development of provision with new qualifications. Centres participating in Functional Skills trial

NOCN Qualifications

Adult Literacy (Skills for Life)

Adult Numeracy (Skills for Life)

Art and Design

Community Development

Employability

ESOL Skills for Life

ESOL for Work

Fashion

Financial Literacy

Functional Skills (Maths, English and ICT)

NOCN Qualifications

Garden Design

General Religious Education

Introductory Work in Outdoors

ITQ

Languages

Media Literacy

Preparation for Event Volunteering (Personal Best)

Qualifications in Progression

Self Employment and Enterprise

Skills Towards Enabling Progression

NOCN Qualifications in Progression

Approved within Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)	✓
Unitised and credit based at Entry 3, Level One, Two and Three	✓
Approved within Foundation Learning Qualifications Catalogue	✓
Mapped to Asset Skills Employability Matrix	✓
Over 600 units (personal, social development / employability)	✓
Different sizes of qualifications (Awards, Certificates, Diplomas)	✓
Can be 'nested' (Award can build credits to a Certificate / Diploma)	✓
For post 16 learners	✓
Flexible delivery/assessment (no external assessment)	✓
Supports learners with a spiky profile	✓
Entry level units mapped to Adult Literacy/Numeracy Core Curriculum	✓
Units mapped to National Occupational Standards where appropriate	✓

NOCN Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) Qualifications

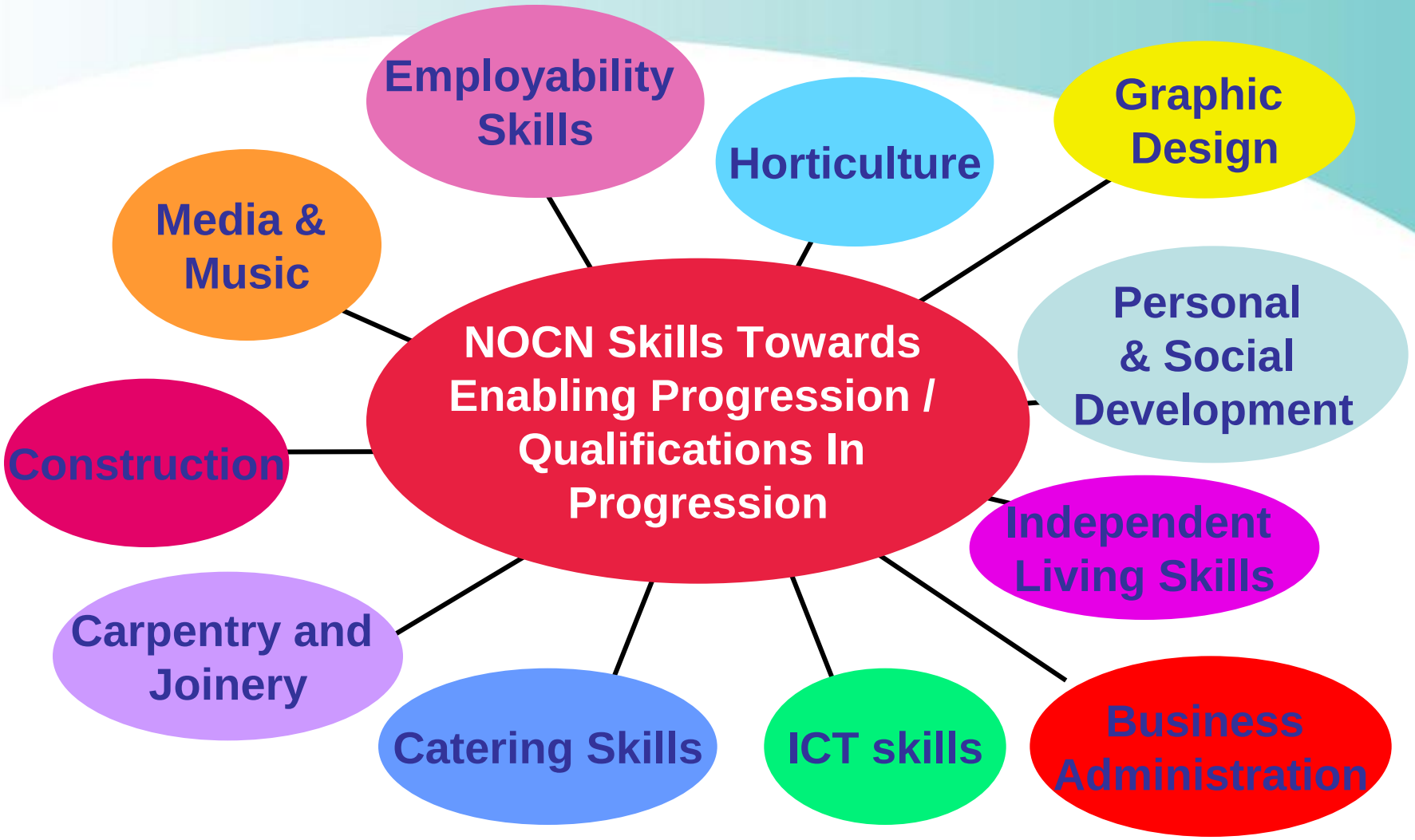
For 14+ learners for whom an alternative curriculum is appropriate	✓
Attracts Schools & Colleges Achievement & Attainment Table points	✓
Mapped to Every Child Matters outcomes	✓
Approved within Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)	✓
Approved within Foundation Learning Qualifications Catalogue	✓
Unitised and credit based at Entry 3 and Level One	✓
Supports learners with a spiky profile	✓
Flexible delivery/assessment (no external assessment)	✓
Can be delivered alongside other subjects / provide opportunities to accredit parts of the national curriculum (PHSEE, WRL, Citizenship)	✓
Different sizes of qualifications (Awards, Certificates, Diplomas)	✓
Can be ‘nested’	✓
Can be continued or started post-16	✓

Unit Choice

NOCN Level 1 Diploma in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF) (120394)

NOCN Unit Code	QCA Accredited Number	Unit Title	Mandatory or Optional	NOCN 10 Hour Credit Value	Level	OPUS ID
HB1/1/QQ/049	T/500/4808	Using Teamwork Skills	Mandatory	3	1	BZR525
LK1/1/QQ/013	D/500/5841	Using the Internet as a Medium for Music	Optional	3	1	BZR464
JK6/1/QQ/036	H/500/5288	Using Tools and Equipment for Garment Making	Optional	3	1	BZR392
HD3/1/QQ/038	L/500/4801	Using Writing for Meaning	Mandatory	3	1	BZR527
CK8/1/QQ/005	H/500/7297	Website Software	Optional	4	1	BZU776
CQ1/1/QQ/006	J/500/7292	Word Processing Software	Mandatory	4	1	BZU779
HB1/1/QQ/065	L/500/8914	Work, Review and Plan	Mandatory	3	1	BZR668
HC4/1/QQ/036	M/500/8890	Work-based Placement	Mandatory	3	1	BZR829

Course Examples:



Course Example: Personal and Social Development

NOCN Entry 3 Certificate in Skills Towards Enabling Progression – Step-UP

Social and Life Skills

Using Teamwork Skills
3 credits – Entry 3

Intro to Personal Budgeting & Money Management
3 credits – Entry 3

Developing Skills for a Healthy Lifestyle
3 credit – Entry 3

Recognising Own Skills for Personal Development
3 credits – Entry 3

Intro to Aspects of Citizenship
3 credits – Entry 3

Course Example

NOCN Level One

Certificate in Progression

Developing Employability Skills

Problem Solving in the Workplace
3 credits – Level 1

Developing Customer Service Skills
3 credits – Level 1

Developing own Interpersonal Skills
3 credits – Level 1

Building a Personal Career Portfolio
3 credits – Level 1

Understanding Time Management in the Workplace
2 credits – Level 1

Understanding Welfare at Work
3 credits – Level 1

Communication in the Workplace
3 credits – Level 1

Health & Safety Awareness in the Workplace
1 credit - Level 1

OCN Eastern Region

Our offender learning providers

- 10 prison education departments (in-scope)
- 1 private prison
- 1 YOI education department (in-scope)
- 4 prisons directly (out-of-scope)
- 8 charitable organisations / trusts
- FE colleges

Regional Overview: 2008-09

- 6,699 learners registered
- Over 22,000 credits awarded
- Approx 50% of accreditation not in NQF/QCF

2008-09

- Aim: transfer provision to QCF qualifications
- Mapped qualification units to 7 pathways to reducing re-offending
- Published paper: Accrediting Learning in Custody and Community
  - Focus on employability
  - Course examples: ways to accredit learning across the 7 pathways
- Worked with education provider to identify core offer including PSD and employability courses
  - links to Test Bed
  - OLASS 3 – core curriculum

2009-10

- OLASS 3 contracts
  - now working with Milton Keynes College in 3 prisons
- Working with A4e at HMP Bure (new prison)
- HMP Bedford / Bure / YOI Warren Hill - Functional Skills trials
- Building provision with NACRO regionally for pre and post 16 learners
- Working with providers to ensure courses enable learners to achieve qualifications
- HMP & YOI Warren Hill using Skills Towards Enabling Progression qualifications (pre 16 version of Qualifications in Progression at Entry 3 and Level 1)

Why it works!

- Dedicated OCN staff with OL remit
  - enables close relationship with centres and high level of customer support
- Experience of credit-based provision assisted centres in transition to QCF
- Meeting needs of centres without comprising awarding body responsibilities
- Having qualifications that meet needs of learners and employers
- Flexible and appropriate assessment methods
- Opportunities to embed learning and develop skills within practical context
- National database to track learner achievement of units and qualifications
- Support centre staff to gain direct claim status for certification

Keeping abreast of changes!

Internally:

- NOCN Director of Stakeholder Engagement
- Regional OCN Offender Learning contacts
- Offender Learning team (OCN Eastern Region)

Externally:

- Regular contact with centres
- Key contacts
- Conferences and networking
- DCSF/DIUS/LSC bulletins and updates