

Reforms and changes in teaching adults

In 2006 the changes proposals for the Adult Education post 19 system were formally agreed by the government.

They are designed to professionalize the service to adult learners and make sure that staff delivering education and training are both competent in their subject matter and competent teachers.

LLUK (lifeline learning UK) the Sector Skills Council for adult education has published on its website and in hard copy the Framework for future qualifications and the system for recognising of existing qualifications.

The IfL (Institute for Learning) were charged with developing a system of registration recognition and continuous professional development of teachers working in the sector.

The term "teachers" was agreed as a broad title to include trainers, instructors and those involved in coaching, assessing (see note 1) and lecturing. The regulations apply to individuals delivering post 19 educations: the reforms apply to those agencies that are drawing down government funding.

The IfL regulates England, Wales (funding is an issue with the Welsh Assembly) & NI (old awards run until 09/10 in these countries) and are developing their own systems. Scotland has different systems.

Current position

As at 01-06-08 (Derek Betts IfL) is that:

- All staff working in FE provision or funded by FE provision must be registered with IfL by the 01-09-08.
- All training providers both external and work based drawing down LSC or government funding (including Local Authority, government departments and sector skills) will start the process with IfL(if they haven't already) this September.
- Assessors working as tutors, DELIVERING Underpinning knowledge as part of the NVQ system, coaching or mentoring are also part of the reforms.

Note 1: Assessors are not part of the initial reforms, the A1 & V1 awards have been extended to 2009(2010) but they will be part of the reforms with the new awards which will be a broader spectrum of stand alone units under the QCF (Qualifications Credit Framework). These units will reflect the various aspects of the role and will be registerable with IfL.

- Membership and registration with IfL is funded by the government as is accreditation to QTLS. Currently there are 140,000 members but this autumn when all "government funded provision" comes under the regulation and reforms it is expected to reach 340,000.

- SVUK (Standards Verification UK) has produced details guidance notes on the reforms.
- The target for all staff including Assessors to be registered with IfL is 2013.
- The target for all staff in a "teaching" role is IfL 2010.
- The focus for registrations in 2008/09 is all adult education provision delivered by local authorities, NHS, Prisons and anyone inspected by Ofsted.

IfL Framework

Affiliate status: the award in Preparing for Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector, PTLLS (level 3/4)

Associate status: certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector, CTLLS (level 3 /4)

* to complete CTLLS the learner must have been tested for Sfl (Skills for life) Numeracy & Literacy at level 2 and if they are not at that level they must be working towards the qualifications

Qualified Teacher Learning & Skills: Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (to be completed within 5 years of the commencement of the programme) DTLLS (level 5)

* Staff working on the Diploma must have Sfl Numeracy and Literacy at level 2.

Qualified Teacher Learning & Skills (QTLS): completed the full framework. (People working with 14-19's are require to have either the QTLS or QTS + a module from CTLLS specifically for teaching this age group)

New staff or those with no "recognised" qualification in teaching.

All staff delivering adult learning are required to be on a programme that leads to the appropriate qualification on the framework by 2008 (LSC funded) or 2010 (Other government funding)

Staff with a "recognised" qualification in teaching.

- Register online with IfL.
- Receive membership of IfL at an agreed level
- Complete a CPD programme of 30 hours annually that reflects (REFLECT is the IfL brand other forms of CPD record will be unloadable to the IfL website) their qualifications and experience and this will then be "judged" against the QTLS standards. At this point QTLS status will either be awarded or a learning plan issued.
- Once on the IfL with CTLLS or Associate status each member must demonstrate 30 hours of CPD annually, which is audited by sampling by the IfL