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## WELCOME

Amidst all the animated and heated political debate on the EU referendum and, for many, the unanticipated result it would have been easy to miss one of the most positive stories about widening participation in education. Recent statistics, published in June, revealed that record numbers of Access to HE learners (almost 26,000) went on to study at universities and other higher education institutions last year. This is an increase of 10 per cent from the previous year. So it is apt that the theme of our Access to HE conference this year, on 12 October, is enabling equality, social mobility and inclusion. More about this follows. In this month's newsletter you can also find out about our new qualifications for apprenticeships, how we are working with the charity SafeLives to help tackle domestic abuse and our thriving partnership with Chelsea FC Foundation who are using our qualifications to help people deemed to be "at risk" to find jobs, start their own business or return to learning. In these uncertain times, there are still good news stories.

*Jacquie Mutter, Chief Executive, OCN London*

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## PREVENTING DOMESTIC ABUSE

[SafeLives](#) is a national charity that supports individuals and families who have been victims of domestic abuse. OCN London has been working with the charity to develop and accredit a new qualification — the **Level 3 Certificate in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention**. The purpose is to provide professionals working for charities,

local authorities, health organisations or within the criminal justice system with the skills they need to be effective in their role in dealing with victims of domestic abuse. [Find out more](#)



## INSPIRING FUTURE CAMPAIGNERS

Helping people to develop the skills they need to be active campaigners in their local community is the aim of a new qualification we have developed in partnership with [Friends of the Earth](#). The **Level 3 Award in Community Campaigning** is aimed at anyone keen to make a difference and is a valuable enhancement programme for 16-18 year-olds in schools and colleges. [Find out more.](#)



## NEW ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP IN HEALTHCARE

We have developed a apprenticeships in healthcare. Our [Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Health \(Clinical Healthcare Support\)](#) is aimed at healthcare support workers working mostly in hospitals, care home, GP surgeries or patients' own homes, who are likely to have a supervisory role and be responsible for clinical procedures.



## NEW APPRENTICESHIPS IN BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

We have also developed apprenticeships in business and customer service. [The Intermediate Apprenticeship in Business Administration](#) is aimed at people who work in a business environment with a responsibility for administrative support. [The Intermediate Apprenticeship in Customer Service](#) seeks to help apprentices to develop knowledge and skills in a wide range of customer service roles.



## FLEXIBLE VOCATIONAL TASTERS

We have been talking to our FE college members, asking them what qualifications they want us to develop. One of the messages is that they really want qualifications that provide 'tasters', are flexible and offer easy progression to study at higher levels. As a result, we have produced a **Level 1 Award and Certificate in [Skills for Vocational Studies](#)** and a **Level 1 Certificate in Learning and Employability Skills for Progression to Vocational Study**. More in the next newsletter about our new Level 3 qualifications.



## CENTRE PROFILE COVENTRY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Coventry University College has built a reputation for providing opportunities for 'second chance' learners to enter university via the OCN London Access to HE Diploma. To meet the needs of mature students they have developed their own approach to study and assessment. [Find out more.](#)



## CENTRE PROFILE CHELSEA FC FOUNDATION

The Chelsea FC Foundation is one of a number of football club trusts across the UK that runs courses in employability, enterprise, sport and active leisure. Although the focus is on 'hard to reach' 16-24 year-olds, they offer courses leading to OCN London qualifications for all ages. Many have started their own businesses, found full-time jobs and carried on learning as a result. [Find out more.](#)





**What will Brexit mean for education and training?** As might be expected, the majority of universities and further education colleges have reacted to the EU referendum result with a mixture of surprise, anxiety and concern. The heads of 103 universities sent an open letter expressing their grave concerns about the impact of the Leave vote. Top priority is to ensure staff and students from EU countries will be able to continue to work and study in the UK. [Read more.](#) Reactions from leaders in the further education sector highlight concerns about the apprenticeship reforms including the proposed employer levy. Other question marks hover over the future of grants from European Social Funding (ESF) and funding from other European initiatives. However, none of the changes will happen overnight which gives some breathing space for greater clarity and time to make plans. [Read more.](#)

**Apprenticeships, skills gaps and the levy.** The House of Commons Select Committee on Education, Skills and the Economy may have to change its focus in the light of the Brexit vote. However, the Committee heard evidence in June on progress, against the 3 million new apprenticeships target, how to implement the employers' levy, lessons from other countries' approaches to apprenticeships and more. [Read more.](#) Minister Nick Boles has announced that publishing plans on apprenticeship reforms will be delayed following Brexit. [Read more.](#)

**Worries about poor digital skills.** A report by the Commons Science and Technology Committee warned that the UK risks being left behind if the Government does not take more action to address the digital skills crisis. They say that 12.6 million adults in the UK lack basic digital skills; 5.8 million people have never used the internet, only 35% of computing teachers in schools have a relevant degree and 30% of the required number of computer science teachers have not been recruited. Even worse, 13% of computing graduates are still unemployed 6 months after leaving university. This digital skills gap is costing the UK economy £63 billion a year in lost GDP. [Read more.](#) One solution is the proposal from a group of MPs to create a network of digital skills colleges across the country. [Read more.](#)

**Record numbers of Access to HE students.** Welcome good news amongst the doom and gloom was the announcement that almost 26,000 Access to HE learners went on to higher education last year (2014/15), with 10 per cent going on to study at Russell Group universities. In total, 25,480 students took an Access to HE course and [successfully entered higher education](#) – an increase of 10 per cent from the previous year. Two of the most popular sectors are

nursing and social work, accounting for about 14 per cent of all Access to HE Diploma students starting on courses this year. [Read more.](#)

### Upcoming events

## EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT DAY

**Tues 5 July, 10am**

A training session for tutors new to formal assessment or OCN London accreditation and qualifications. The morning session will include the principles of assessment and building learner portfolios, credit-based learning and different types of assessment. The afternoon session will cover designing effective assessment materials, planning tasks and sharing good practice.. [More details](#)

[BOOK NOW](#)

## INTRODUCTION TO INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL VERIFICATION

**Tues 19 July, 10am**

A training session for people who wish to be an internal verifier for OCN London courses or who have to design and operate a verification system for their organisation. The three hour session will cover the role of internal verifier and quality reviewer, your own organisation's model of internal verification, how to record outcomes and the purpose of quality reviewer reports. [More details](#)

[BOOK NOW](#)

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Click [here](#) to visit our website and find out more about our qualifications and bespoke accreditation options.

Contact us to discuss your needs on 020 7278 5511 or email us at [enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk).



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