

Dear Colleague,

RE: CWDC supports continuation of CACHE Level 3 Diploma for September - December 2010 registrations

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Centres that have written to us regarding concerns about the introduction of the new CWDC qualifications in autumn 2010. This has proven extremely important in achieving a positive outcome to our discussions with CWDC.

CACHE requested a meeting with CWDC to resolve the issues you had identified and we are pleased to report that CWDC has now recognised that centres have advertised existing courses and many learners have already been offered places on them. In order not to disadvantage these learners, CWDC has agreed to support the continuation of the CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education for 16-19 year old learners for the September 2010 cohort.

The CACHE Level 3 Diploma will continue to carry occupational competence and UCAS points, and will also continue to be recommended by CWDC for funding by the LSC and the other funding authorities.

This is positive news for Centres wanting to register Learners onto the CACHE Diploma in September 2010. However there is still work to be done to meet the needs of all 16-19 year olds registering for L3 qualifications after December 2010 to ensure that they can progress to full-time higher education or employment. We are having further discussions with CWDC to ensure that qualifications available after December 2010 allow all young people to achieve their full potential and avoid the risk of disadvantage. We do not wish to lose the A-level equivalency of qualifications which has existed in the sector since 1974 when the Diploma in Nursery Nursing was first recognised as being equivalent to 2 A-levels. Our current Diploma is equivalent to 3 A-levels and carries up to 360 UCAS points depending on the grades achieved.

The existing CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education will be offered by CACHE alongside the new CWDC Level 3 Diploma and centres will be able to offer either or both qualifications in September 2010. Learners who may have previously opted for the Level 3 NVQ will find the new CWDC Level 3 Diploma a suitable alternative.

Please continue to keep us informed with your views. We will continue to do our best to serve and support you in conveying your views to CWDC. We will also ensure that we continue to keep you informed via monthly QCF updates, the CACHE website and CACHE QCF forums.

Yours sincerely,

CACHE