**New information on the Workforce Development Fund 2018/19**

**Summary of the Main Changes from April 2018:**

* Skills for Care will not fund all health and social care RQF qualifications so it will be important to check the lists of what will be funded. Information will be available from Optimum
* RQF focuses on the achievement of full qualifications, so in 2018/19 both QCF and RQF qualifications will be funded at qualification level only. This means individual units cannot be claimed and qualifications will be claimed when completed.
* Any learners who have already been registered for individual QCF units should complete them and employers should ensure these are submitted to be claimed in the current funding year. Optimum will prioritise claims for individual units or any qualifications which have evidence dated in 2017 between now and 30 March 2018.
* For all qualifications the evidence required to support claims will be a copy of the learner’s certificate, although for QCF qualifications this will still need to include the full unit breakdown. Claim forms will still need to be completed with unit details for QCF qualifications to ensure that a unit is only funded once. Unit summary sheets will not be accepted as evidence in 2018/19.
* 2018/19 will be the final year for claiming QCF qualifications. This means that if the qualification is not completed, certificated and claimed in 2018/19 it will not be funded through the Workforce Development Fund.
* The 60 credit limit will no longer be in place in 2018/19, but will be replaced by a financial limit which allows the qualification on our list with the highest funding value to be claimed for a learner within a single funding year.
* Please contact Optimum if you have any further queries

29th January 2018

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