

Ascentis' response to Ofqual PAM Report 2010

Ascentis is a UK-based Awarding Organisation with a portfolio of user-friendly qualifications designed to meet the needs of all learners, from basic literacy and numeracy through to Access to Higher Education and professional teacher training. As a recognised charity, Ascentis is committed to the provision of clear progression routes that enable learners to climb the qualifications ladder and achieve their lifelong aspirations. As such the ability to operate within the QCF is key to its success and the first QCF Post-Accreditation Monitoring exercise, conducted in the second half of 2010, was welcomed.

This report therefore represents the first of its type for Ascentis since it gained supplementary recognition to operate within the QCF in February 2010. The report records an accurate account of the process and its findings. The review itself was conducted in the context of acknowledgement of the relative newness of the QCF, presenting an opportunity for all involved to learn from one another, and for Ascentis to reflect on its progress within this area. Ascentis considers the outcome of the process has provided an endorsement of its achievements within the QCF, demonstrating and recording its fitness to operate within the framework. No non-compliances were found within the areas of management and governance, resources and expertise, diversity and equality, design and development of assessment, delivery of assessment, or centre recognition. One non-compliance arose in the development of units and one within awarding and certification, both on a straightforward operational matter, straightforward to address, and already underway, with completion scheduled for end March 2011. The observations within the report also provide constructive feedback which is being taken forward through Ascentis' monitoring systems for consideration.