The DIUS refreshed Skills for Life Strategy document ‘Skills for Life: Changing Lives’ (March 2009) indicates that there will be an increased emphasis on numeracy provision and that all learners on a programme of Level 2 and below will need to be assessed for numeracy. There is a need for more numeracy provision and greater capacity to deliver it.

Do you have sufficient fully qualified numeracy staff?

- Are you able to meet contractual obligations?
- Do you want to improve your Ofsted inspection grade?
- Are your learners achieving well in numeracy?
Are you able to meet contractual obligations?

There have been changes to the requirements for initial teacher training (ITT) and continuing professional development (CPD). These changes apply to anyone delivering LSC funded provision.

In brief:

- by 2010, every teacher will be qualified or working towards a Standards Verification UK (SVUK) endorsed qualification
- all teachers must be professionally registered with the Institute for Learning (IfL)
- all new staff must be professionally registered and licensed to practise by the Institute for Learning (IfL)

To be licensed, all teachers (from September 2007) must:

- achieve Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status if teaching numeracy (gained through the Professional Formation process following completing a Level 5 teaching qualification and a numeracy subject specialism)
- undertake at least 30 hours of CPD per year. Those in part-time employment will undertake CPD on a sliding scale, with a minimum of 6 hours a year
- maintain a record reflecting on the CPD activities they have undertaken to maintain IfL status

Further information can be found in ‘Guidance for Work Based Learning Providers - reforms to the Training and Qualifications of Teachers, Tutors, Trainers and Instructors’, LLUK, 2008
Do you want to improve your Ofsted inspection grade?

A recent Ofsted report evaluating the impact of provision funded by Train to Gain on the skills and qualifications held by adult employees found that,

"Insufficient skills for life provision was offered by providers or taken up by employers and employees. Few providers had specialist staff to offer effective skills for life training."

- Are your staff trained to identify and meet the unique needs of your numeracy learners?
- Do they have the personal levels of numeracy skills to enable them to do this?
- Do they have the teaching skills to enable them to do this?

Are your learners achieving?

Research undertaken by the NRDC indicates the benefits of qualified specialist teachers for the learners. The report noted:

- Experience matters
- Subject knowledge is also of prime importance

2 ‘The impact of Train to Gain on skills in employment’, Ofsted, 2008
3 ‘Skills for Life teachers' qualifications and their learners' progress in adult numeracy’, NRDC, 2008
How can staff develop personal numeracy skills?

- **Self-evaluation**
  The Mathematics Content Knowledge for Adult Learning can be checked out using the self-evaluation tool on the National Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training (NCETM) website www.ncetm.org.uk. It's free.

- **Move On**
  Materials are available on the Move On website to help you brush up your skills to Level 2. www.move-on.org.uk

- **Step Up to Level 3 Personal Numeracy Skills**
  For those already at Level 2 in their numeracy

Want to know more?

Numeracy in Train to Gain - guide for Train to Gain providers available at www.ncetm.org.uk/numeracy

For general information about teaching adults numeracy and funding of training

A maintenance grant is available which nearly covers the fees. Further funding may be available. By following an integrated route you can complete your subject specialism along with your teaching qualification. This route is fully funded.

Contact the Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) Information and Advice Service:
Tel: 020 7936 5798
Email: advice@lluk.org
Website: www.lluk.org.uk

For information about courses related to teaching numeracy running in the North East

Check out the North East Training and Development section of www.skillsforlifenetwork.com

Developed by the North East Skills for Life Teacher Educator Network

www.skillsforlifenetwork.com