## Subject: Operational end date of ASDAN Wider Key Skills, Levels 1­–3

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**Notice: This Communication notice relates to the operational end date of the following**

**Wider Key Skills Qualifications:**

ASDAN Level 1 Key Skills in Improving own Learning and Performance (100/3795/0)

ASDAN Level 1 Key Skills in Problem Solving (100/3799/8)

ASDAN Level 1 Key Skills in Working with Others (100/3791/3)

ASDAN Level 2 Key Skills in Improving own Learning and Performance (100/3796/2)

ASDAN Level 2 Key Skills in Problem Solving (100/3800/0)

ASDAN Level 2 Key Skills in Working with Others (100/3792/5)

ASDAN Level 3 Key Skills in Improving own Learning and Performance (100/3797/4)

ASDAN Level 3 Key Skills in Problem Solving (100/3801/2)

ASDAN Level 3 Key Skills in Working with Others (100/3793/7)

## ASDAN will not be renewing these qualifications when they expire on 31 December 2018.

## Key Dates

Final candidate “number” registration (CANa) will be 31 December 2018

Final candidate “name” registration and certification claim (CANb) will be 30 November 2019

Final certification date will be 31 December 2019

# Background

ASDAN is currently the only Awarding Organisation still offering the Wider Key Skills at Level 1 to Level 3 in England.

The Wider Key Skills were ASDAN’s first regulated qualifications and the 2004 standards have not changed since this time.

Information published by the DfES in 2006 showed that there were almost 105,000 wider Key Skills awards made in 2004/05; 43% in Improving own Learning and Performance; 36% in Working with Others and 20% in Problem Solving. The majority of all wider Key Skills were achieved at Level 2 (55%), by those aged 16­–18 (65%) and by male students (59%).

The revised School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables included points for ASDAN’s range of qualifications, alongside GCSEs, contributing 15% to the threshold at Levels 1 and 2. At Level 3, 20 UCAS tariff points were awarded for each wider key skill. The value of the qualifications to schools in particular led to a significant number of centres and candidates registering for one or more of the qualifications.

The removal of the qualifications from headline measures in England from 2014 had a dramatic effect on the number of centres registering; however, we continued to extend the operational and certification end dates of the WKS because of the value we knew that centres placed on them.

The subsequent decision by the DfE in 2015 to revoke approval for Level 3 qualifications that mainly focussed on personal skills, led us to the situation we now find ourselves in, where only very low numbers of centres continue to deliver the ASDAN Wider Key Skills in England.

Therefore, a decision has been made to not extend the Wider Key Skills Qualifications, at all levels, on the basis of the small numbers of candidates currently being registered.

**Protecting the interests of learners**

It is important to ASDAN, and a requirement of our conditions of recognition, to protect the interests of learners. Learner registrations can be purchased until 31 December 2018, and moderations booked up until 30 November 2019.

**Alternative ASDAN products**

ASDAN will continue to offer the Awards and Certificates in Personal Effectiveness (AoPE and CoPE Levels 1 to 3), both of which carry UCAS tariff points at Level 3. Units in Planning and reviewing learning; and Team working are also available through ASDAN’s Employability qualifications at Levels 1 and 2.