

“Thank you for arranging today’s seminar, it was really helpful. I now know where our weaknesses lie and how to address them.”

“SQA really listened to our concerns and addressed them accordingly”

Evaluation of Assessment Arrangements Seminars June 2006

“I found this an excellent course, very informative and well paced. Our SQA facilitator was very approachable and made our concerns/worries less by honest discussion. I feel better placed to go back to school and roll out programme for 2006/7.”

“I got a strong impression that SQA are listening to our comments, not just telling us what to do. The whole atmosphere was helpful and constructive and we felt valued and part of the process of making the system as fair as possible for the pupils concerned, but also manageable and practical too.”

Summary

Over the course of 5 national seminars we managed to meet 475 delegates who ranged from Support for Learning Principal teachers and staff, SQA Co-ordinators, Admin staff. Despite centres being asked to send only one delegate, this was not adhered to by SQA, 1centre at one event had 6 delegates. On average 74% of delegates responded to the evaluation, where many delegates asked for this event to be an annual or biennial event and to provide more of this particular event and open them up to more delegates. There was also a call for SQA to follow up the issues from the seminars and produce more support material/ proformas/ guidance. Delegates were also asked to raise Burning Issues and these have now been collated and responded to.

Opportunity to network

This was one of the most important aims of the seminars and one that the delegates very much appreciated, especially those from smaller schools and / or Highlands and Island schools where the Support for Learning teachers can often work in isolation, on average 98.76% of delegates thought we had met this aim well.

Forum for discussion and dissemination of good practice

Again an important aim of the seminars and one that the delegates enjoyed immensely, many mentioned the group discussion in the 'most valuable part of the day' question. On average 99% of delegates thought we met this aim extremely well.

Clarification of SQA's quality assurance processes for assessment arrangements

99% of delegates thought we met this aim well. Many enjoyed the clarification and the reassurance that they were doing the right thing.

The range and depth of information provided

99% of delegates thought that the range and depth of information was between fair and excellent

The quality of the venue

While most of the venues were excellent, the last event held in Glasgow was marred by late coffee and a small room with too many delegates, delegates said that because of the amount of people and size of room it was difficult to hear each other during group discussions. This being said 98.3% of delegates still thought the quality of the venues was between fair and excellent.

Most valuable part of the day

Overwhelmingly, the most valuable part of the day for 49.4 % of delegates was the opportunity to network and the group discussion. Secondly were the workshops, in particular, the mini case studies and Self diagnosis checklist. Delegates also very much appreciated having a member of SQA staff to discuss issues with and enjoyed sharing good practice.

Least valuable part of the day

This was the most difficult question to evaluate as most respondents skipped this question, some put a line through it some said 'n/a'. It was difficult to know whether this meant respondents didn't think that any part was the least valuable ergo the whole day was valuable. However 46% of delegates took the time to say that the whole day had been of value to them. 8% of delegates found the QAM introduction was the least valuable but many also said it was because they had heard it before, I delegate said the QAM intro but it had still been useful.

Additional comments

Additional comments were varied, some delegates took the opportunity to say what a valuable/ informative day it had been, many took the time to comment further on the venue/catering. Some took the time to address a particular issue or problem. The following are a representative of these:

- A booklet of good practice would be useful
- It would be valuable to have annual meetings in which problems/ meetings can be raised.
- A standard proforma for evidence issued by SQA would be useful
- Could you have a look at your website to enable us to locate the AA material a little easier?
- Very reassuring - confident in having SQA support and seeking same in future
- A programme for the day would have been useful. Please run more, other members of staff would also have found it valuable
- Initial registration proved difficult as fax was misplaced. Registration need tightened. Day was very productive.
- Felt very confident regarding gathering evidence and making decisions but still a bit unclear of how to present evidence and keep everything in order!
- Will use handouts with staff back in school
- Thanks! Exemplars soon please. Also possibility of acknowledging a reading age limit for use of reader as a guideline? Please encourage LAs to ensure equality of provision across presenting centres
- Very helpful to discuss these issues and to find solutions. It would be very helpful if we could have Local Authority meetings to discuss this with our SQA manager
- Whole day well organised. Friendly, approachable facilitators. Many thanks
- A positive experience. Well run and good to hear colleagues' ideas and approaches - got a couple of strategies to put in place, thanks
- SQA could try to bring onboard subject teachers as much of the responsibility for evidence gathering rests with them. This might raise the profile of this with them, emphasise their responsibilities. A good day all round - very worthwhile attending