Higher National and Vocational Qualifications Internal Assessment Report 2015

Plastering

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Higher National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in this subject.

Higher National Units

General comments

External verification reporting confirmed that centre staff continue to have a clear and accurate understanding of the appropriate national standards which underpin the Higher National Units being delivered in the Advanced Craft Plastering qualification. This was evident in the assessment evidence which was reviewed, with candidates achieving all Unit requirements and successfully attaining all HN Plastering Units and the Plastering Advanced Craft qualification.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Assessors at all centres sampled have a comprehensive knowledge of each Unit specification and its SQA-devised Training and Assessment Programme (TAP).

Assessment evidence sampled included candidate TAP assessment records and practical workshop evidence and confirmed that assessors had a clear focus on the demands of each Unit assessment and this was reflected in the 'high standard of practical evidence' being produced by candidates.

Evidence Requirements

The evidence requirements of each Unit were being met consistently by staff at reviewed centres.

Effective internal quality assurance processes such as course reporting, review practices, effective assessment procedures and supportive internal verification activity ensured that all evidence requirements were being met consistently.

All evidence sampled confirmed that each Unit's evidence requirements were understood and met by centres delivering the HN Advanced Craft Plastering qualification. In fact, comments on the high quality of practical plasterwork evidence was reported at one centre.

Administration of assessments

Centres continue to administer assessments in a professional and systematic way. Internal review processes at centres ensure a focus on assessment environments, resourcing and candidate portfolio building. These processes are again underpinned by supportive internal verification monitoring and reporting.

General feedback

Candidates at centres sampled commented favourably on the assessment feedback they received and on the ongoing support received from staff throughout their Advanced Craft Plastering course.

Areas of good practice

♦ No areas of good practice were reported during external verification activity in Session 2014–15

Specific areas for improvement

♦ No areas for improvement were reported during external verification activity in Session 2014–15

SVQ awards

General comments

External verification reports confirmed that all centres have a clear, comprehensive and accurate understanding of individual Unit requirements and the requirement of the Training and Assessment Programme (TAP) which supports the delivery of the Plastering SVQ.

Staff at all centres understood how the information obtained from Candidate Records of Evidence from the Workplace (CREWs) and evidence from Phase Tests supported the ongoing development of practical skills and generic behavioural competences.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Staff at all centres sampled had a thorough knowledge of Unit specifications and the requirements of each Unit's TAP assessment.

The industry-devised Units H109 12 Construction Craft Competence Assessment and H10A 12 Construction Crafts Employability Skills are being delivered effectively by staff at all centres sampled.

At most centres sampled, supportive internal verification activity ensured that all evidence requirements are being met consistently and effectively by assessors.

However, planned internal verification activity did not take place at one centre and this resulted in Unit H10A 12 Construction Craft Employment Skills CREWs not been signed and dated by candidates or the assessor for year 1 or year 2 candidates.

Evidence Requirements

Almost all centres have a clear understanding of the evidence requirements of the Plastering SVQ Units and their TAPs.

However, at more than a few centres, candidate knowledge and practical assessment records were not always signed and dated by the assessor, the candidate and where appropriate the internal verifier, to fulfil the evidence requirements of Units and the Construction Industry Assessment Methodology.

At one centre actions to address insufficient evidence for Unit H0C7 12 Internal Repairs were not resolved effectively, despite additional evidence being forwarded by the centre to SQA on two separate occasions.

Administration of assessments

External verification reporting confirmed that assessments are being administered effectively and assessment record keeping and retention of

evidence is systematic with all assessment records and evidence being readily available at almost all centres verified.

However, two of the centres sampled were not using the current version of the TAP to deliver the assessment process, while SQA disclaimers were not included in candidate portfolios at two centres.

General feedback

Candidate feedback to external verifiers during verification visits confirmed that feedback from practical and knowledge assessments was valued and that Phase Tests and CREWs were working well at all centres.

Feedback from assessors to candidates was systematic and valued by candidates.

Areas of good practice

Candidate practical skills development needs were being identified through CREWs and Phase Tests and effective ongoing support was being offered at one centre visited.

Specific areas for improvement

♦ Training and Assessment Programme practical and knowledge evidence records being signed and dated by candidates, assessors and where appropriate internal verifiers
♦ Internal verification of Unit H10A 12 Construction Craft Employment Skills, (CREWs) to ensure signing and dating by candidates and the assessor for all year 1 or year 2 students
♦ Effective feedback on assessment decisions to assessors by internal verifiers
♦ Ensuring that all TAP materials being used are the current versions
♦ Ensuring that SQA disclaimers are added to candidate portfolios