

5 February 2004

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Secondary Schools
FE Colleges

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of
National Qualifications in Managing Care**

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	None — update/information only

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Dear Colleague

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN CARE

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for National Qualifications in Care.

Diet 2003

The Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator reports for Diet 2003 can now be found on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). These include:

- ◆ PA Report for Intermediate 1 Care
- ◆ PA Report for Intermediate 2 Care
- ◆ PA Report for Higher Care
- ◆ PA Report for Higher Early Years Child Care
- ◆ PA Reports for all Project-based National Courses
- ◆ Senior Moderator Report for National Qualification Units

Appeals

Stage 1 and 2 appeals were completed successfully. Colleagues are requested to follow the guidance set out in the following documents prior to submitting appeals:

- ◆ *The Appeals Process: a guide for centres* (AA0690/3, June 2002)
- ◆ *Estimates and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on generating evidence* (A0992/2, February 2001)

NB Revised versions of both documents are due to be issued in March 2004. Copies of these documents can be downloaded from SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

The most commonly found problems in evidence submitted for appeals this year were:

- ◆ Wrong or incomplete evidence.
- ◆ Inconsistencies in marking.
- ◆ Leniency in applying marks and grades.

National Qualifications Review

Courses assessed by question paper

All recommendations of the review of subjects have now been carried out and revised Units across all levels have been well accepted. During session 2002/03 centres had the option of using either the 'old' or the revised NABs for *Interpersonal Skills for Carers* (Higher). Only the revised versions should be used this session. Candidate numbers at all levels continue to grow and centres are showing greater awareness of the standards required.

Project-based National Courses

The following changes recommended by the review of courses have now been implemented:

Mental Health Issues (Higher)

2003/04 — a slightly revised Project Specification with a fuller marking schedule will be distributed to centres currently delivering the Course for use this session. It will also be posted on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

2004/05 — staff have long asserted that the content of this Course is too heavy. Changes to the structure of the Course have now been approved and as from August 2004 this will be:

Mandatory Unit: *Understanding Mental Health and Mental Illness* (Higher) (80 hours)

Optional Units: Either:
D11A 12 *Caring for People with Dementia* (Higher) (40 hours)
Or:
D10Y 12 *Stress and Stress Management* (Higher) (40 hours)

A new code will be allocated to *Understanding Mental Health and Mental Illness* once the validation process has been completed. This Unit has not changed substantially — a new Performance Criterion has been added to Outcomes 3 and 4 and an Outcome 5 has been added. In the main, these deal with legislation and procedural issues. New NABs for the Unit and a new Project Specification for the Course are currently being written.

The new Unit will be posted on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) once the validation process is completed. This should be prior to Easter. New NABs for the revised Unit and the revised Course project specification will follow soon after.

Centres will have the option of continuing with the current version for one further year only, ie during 2004/05.

Care Practice (Higher)

The Unit *Practical Skills for Carers (Higher)* was revised and most centres have been using the new version. Unfortunately there was a delay in the revision of the accompanying NABs. This is currently being attended to and Centres will be able to obtain the new folio-style NAB from the secure website by Easter.

Care Issues for Society (Intermediate 2)

The NQ Subject Review recommended that this Course be made into two separate Courses rather than one with two routes as the current version does not meet the NQ Review criteria. The new structure will be:

Care Issues for Society: Child Care (Intermediate 2)

D10V 11	<i>Family Structures and Roles in a Changing Society</i>	(40 hours)
D10P 11	<i>Parenting Today</i>	(40 hours)
	<i>Child Protection: An Introduction</i> (new code to be allocated)	(40 hours)

Care Issues for Society: Older People (Intermediate 2)

D10V 11	<i>Family Structures and Roles in a Changing Society</i>	(40 hours)
D11H 11	<i>Mental Health Issues: An Introduction</i>	(40 hours)
D665 11	<i>Understanding the Needs of the Older Person</i>	(40 hours)

Centres will have the option of continuing with the current version for one further year only, ie during 2004/05. There are no changes to the Units for the Older Person route.

The new *Child Protection: An Introduction* Unit will be posted on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) once the validation process is completed. This should be prior to Easter. New NABs for the revised Unit and Project Specifications for the Courses will follow soon after.

Early Years Child Care and Education

Work on the development of a new National Qualifications Group Award is now well underway. All centres have been informed of the establishment of a Subject Advisory Group, which has a wide representation across the sector, and all have received the consultation questionnaire. Julie Brechin, the National Development Officer, has already visited a large number of colleges and partnerships and is gathering the views of lecturers and practitioners to assist with the consultation process. The consultation seminar held earlier in January at SFEU in Stirling was well attended and feedback indicated that delegates found the morning session extremely helpful, with the only complaint being that it should have lasted all day!

Consultation questionnaires should have been returned by the end of January 2004, with the analysis of these taking place in February. A report will be issued to centres as soon as possible thereafter, and detailed work on the development of the new award will then begin.

Assessment Panel

The Care Assessment Panel continues to meet twice a year to look at issues arising in both the NQ and HN/VQ Courses. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers. The structure and membership of assessment panels is currently under review and decisions about their future will be issued to centres in due course.

I hope that you find the above information useful. If you would like to discuss any matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to telephone me on 0141-242 2343, or e-mail me at tom.stannage@sqa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Tom Stannage
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NQ Social Sciences