

Our ref: TS/EE&C

30 October 2006

To: SQA Coordinator (Secondary Schools, FE Colleges)
Directors of Education
SCIS
Customer Account Managers

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the
delivery of National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare**

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

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare.

Diet 2006

Overall the results for both Higher Early Years Care and Education and Early Education and Childcare showed a similar distribution to previous years. The number of entries for this Course rose quite substantially and the entries for the first diet in *Play in Early Education and Childcare* was extremely encouraging. There is however some evidence that a number of candidates being entered for the Higher Course would be more appropriately placed at Intermediate 2. The Principal Assessor reports for diet 2006 can now be found on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

Appeals

The procedures for Early Education and Childcare appeals have just been completed. 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, April 2004)

Both documents can be downloaded from SQA's website.

The document *Estimates and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on generating evidence* is currently undergoing revision with the revised version due to be posted on SQA's website in October. The revised version clarifies what evidence is required when submitting an appeal for question paper-based Courses and states:

‘An integrated prelim which covers a minimum of two Units of the Course plus supporting evidence, such as a high scoring NAB, for the third Unit would support an Appeal for a Grade C (and possibly a B), but not for a Grade A.

For an Appeal for a Grade A, the most convincing evidence would replicate the standard format, duration and security of SQA's question paper.’

Revised Early Education and Childcare Course

A number of centres decided to remain with the old Course for diet 2006, but all centres are reminded that only the revised Course is available from session 2006/07.

National Certificate Group Award: Early Education and Childcare

In ensuring that the NCGA adheres to the design principles agreed between SQA and stakeholders as part of SQA's Portfolio Review, the award will become a 12 Credit award. SQA is currently consulting on the revised structure of this award to seek agreement on what Units will move from the mandatory section. If you have not already done so please complete the short questionnaire and return it as soon as possible. We would like to have the views of all centres who have delivered or intend to deliver this award.

Skills for Work — the pilot and beyond

Thirteen Skills for Work Courses will be available to **all** centres in 2007/08, following the successful implementation of pilot Courses in 2005/06.

Centres were informed in the June NQ update letter of SQA's plans for Skills for Work Courses. SQA will be issuing information to all centres about these Courses in December. This information will include transition guidance for those centres who have participated in the pilot.

The Skills for Work Courses in Early Education and Childcare are currently undergoing one or two important changes following feedback from centres during the first year of the pilot. Centres will be fully informed of the nature of these changes in the December information packs.

Assessment Panel

The Assessment Panel continues to meet twice a year to look at issues arising in the assessment of Care Units and Courses. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers.

Becoming a Marker

The number of entries for the Early Education and Childcare Course has increased every year since its inception and the Marking Team is finding it harder to complete marking on time. If you are interested in becoming a Marker for this Course or for the PBNC *Play in Early Education and Childcare*, an application form can be downloaded from SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk). Alternatively, please contact us on 0131-561 6825 and we will send a form to you. To become a Marker, we normally ask that you have taught the Course for at least three years, preferably within the past three years — obviously this cannot be the case for these new Courses but your experience in this subject area will be relevant. We welcome applications throughout the year and, where a suitable vacancy exists, we may be able to offer an appointment for this year. These Courses are centrally marked — this entails the Marker marking scripts over one extended period in the same venue. We have had a number of examples recently where the results in centres have improved dramatically after a member of staff joined the marking team. The experience provides excellent personal and professional development.

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 0845 213 5502, or e-mail me at: [**tom.stannage@sqa.org.uk**](mailto:tom.stannage@sqa.org.uk).

Yours faithfully



Tom Stannage
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NQ Social Sciences and Care