



Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Senior Verifier Report

2007

Subject: Playwork

Sector Panel or SSC: Skills Active

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

SVQ AWARDS

TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS VERIFIED

G73N 22 Playwork SVQ Level 2

G60W 23 Playwork SVQ Level 3

G84W 23 Playwork SVQ Level 3

G84X 24 Playwork SVQ Level 4

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

This session has seen an increase in Playwork centres in Scotland. The new SVQ Level 4 Playwork has promising uptake with over 100 candidates working with this qualification and the first completed candidates beginning to come through the system. The majority of centres who have been working with SVQ level 3 Playwork (G60W 23) have now switched to the revised SVQ Level 3 (G84W 23). There have been some challenges for centres as the assessments move towards a more holistic approach. Other centres have managed to work through the holistic assessment very well.

The assessment strategy linked to the Playwork SVQ 3 and 4, has proved to be quite challenging for some centres in the area of appropriate staff recruitment for Playwork qualifications.

The general standard of work across the centres is of good quality and the reports from visiting external verifiers reiterate this point.

There were no centres that were not accepted during this session.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Holistic Assessment:

There are many centres that now have a working understanding of the concept of holistic practice and how this relates to the qualification. A few of these centres also have produced very good quality holistic work, where the candidates have carried out assessments, which naturally cover aspects of four or five units at a time. There have been a few difficulties with this in relation to the revised SVQ Level 3 Playwork. It is unclear as to whether this is a problem relating to holistic assessment or a fear of tackling the unit PW9. A couple of centres have been working their way through the option units of the level 3 and admitted that they were unsure of how to approach the unit PW9. The holistic approach would be to start with the unit PW9 as a focus and allow the evidence to cascade from the play observations required in this unit, which would in turn lead to evidence involving several units including PW6, PW7.

The SVQ Level 4 Playwork so far has been verified as the evidence being assessed from a holistic aspect.

It appeared from the reports, that SVQ Level 2 Playwork was now being assessed holistically, as to include the units PW1, PW2, PW3 in the planning and assessments. This is an improvement from last year, where some centres were still struggling with this.

Therefore holistic assessment is only a real issue with the Playwork SVQ Level 3, this will be an area for further development for the Playwork EV team this session. This will include holistic planning and holistic

observations, which link to this issue. Although some centres were observing holistically, many more were struggling to observe the candidates carrying out assessments covering several Units. Planning for a holistic assessment could be the key to supporting centres and candidates in their difficulties with this. This will be discussed with centres at network meetings.

Knowledge Evidence:

Although it has to be acknowledged that more centres are including the majority of candidate's knowledge in the reflective accounts, there are still some centres that are using too many unnecessary questions and case studies. Knowledge is designed to be part of the understanding of performance, and so should be included in their reflective accounts of their performance. Questions and other tasks are useful when knowledge cannot be realistically identified through performance.

Internal Verification:

The centres that were working with candidates and holistic portfolios were finding the internal verification of this type of work difficult to organise. There were a few good examples of how to effectively work this practice. Internal verification does not necessarily need to take place only when the candidate has completed a Unit, but can be sampled on an ongoing basis as long as a matrix or record of sampled work is kept. This ensures the quality procedures and also helps the internal verifier to identify what still has to be sampled at the end of the candidate's course.

Tracking and Documenting in Portfolios:

All the reports on centres visited stated that evidence recording and tracking was excellent.

Playwork Theory:

It was encouraging to see that many candidates are writing with understanding about the Playwork Theory. Many centres have developed good resources relating the theories, including observation forms for candidates use. In discussions with assessors and verifiers, the EV team did, however, record that this area still requires further development and support for centres to understand theory into practice in relation to the Playworkers role.