



Skills for Work UPDATE

Equipping young people with the skills
they need for the world of work

Issue 4
June 2007

The **countdown** to **mainstream** has begun...

It's hard to believe that year 2 of the pilot is coming to an end... and what a full year it's been!

Literally thousands of young people across the length and breadth of Scotland have been busily working through their Skills for Work Courses... and by all accounts - enjoying the experience - thanks to the continued enthusiasm and commitment of teachers, lecturers and SfW co-ordinators.

We're gearing up now to certificate a large number of Skills for Work candidates in the summer.

From the start of session 2007/08 Skills for Work Courses go 'mainstream'. However, over the coming year, we will continue to track your phase 2 pilot candidates who started their Courses in session 2006/07 with delivery over two years.

We'd like to once again thank everyone involved in the pilot that has worked so hard over these past two years... to make Skills for Work Courses the success that they undoubtedly are!



Donald Paterson
Project Manager



It's that time of year... again!

Our colleagues in Data Services are busy ensuring that candidates who have successfully completed their Skills for Work Course have their achievement recorded on their Scottish Qualifications Certificate in August.

For this to happen, we need you to check a few things...

Have all the required Course and Unit entries been submitted to SQA?

Data Services has started sending out reports to centres where we know Unit entries are missing. Please check these reports and act on them if required.

It is more difficult for us if the Course entry is missing (the C code). We can't make the checks if we don't know the Course is running! This is especially important if you have embedded a Skills for Work Course within a full-time college Course.

Have you submitted the final results for all Units in the Course?

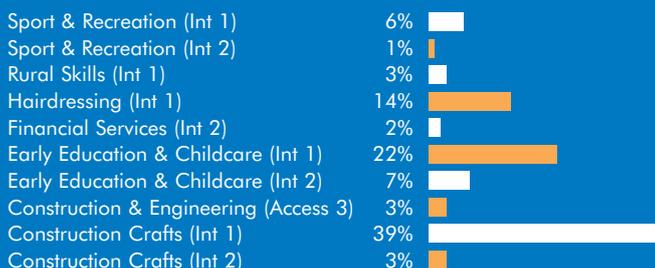
Once we are happy that all the entries are in, we will be checking that we have all the necessary results. The sooner these are submitted, the quicker this process becomes. Again, if Data Services contacts your centre about missing results... please act on the report without delay.

What have you been up to?

5000 candidates across Scotland have been working on a Skills for Work Course over this last year.

Proportionally, here's what we've all been involved in -

Candidate Entries 2006 - 2007



The breakdown by gender and Course is quite interesting...

Hairdressing

Intermediate 1



Construction & Engineering

Access 3



Construction Crafts

Intermediate 1



Construction Crafts

Intermediate 2



Early Education & Childcare

Intermediate 1



Early Education & Childcare

Intermediate 2



Rural Skills

Intermediate 1



Financial Services

Intermediate 2



Sport & Recreation

Intermediate 1



Sport & Recreation

Intermediate 2



Feedback from young ladies on the Construction Crafts Course and young gentlemen on the Hairdressing and Early Education and Childcare Courses has been really positive. There seems to be a genuine appreciation of the value of the employability skills in all SfW Courses...

Skills for Work Courses are designed for everyone!



Hairdressing Inverness College

Thank you!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has submitted their Skills for Work case study.

Earlier this year we made an offer to every pilot centre to write up their Skills for Work experiences using a template... and to include some photos, if you had them, of your Courses in action.

We've been really delighted with the response so far. The first studies are with our publishers now, and will be available in hard copy, and on our website, from June.

We hope to publish all the case studies in a rolling programme over the coming months.

In the meantime... you'll see some of the photos throughout this newsletter...

It's not too late... If you missed our earlier offer, and would like to share your Skills for Work experiences with others... let us know, and we'll make the arrangements.

A small fee is payable for each case study submitted.

Please contact: skillsforwork@sqa.org.uk



Sport and Recreation Cults Academy, Aberdeen College

Easy does it!

During phase 2 of the pilot we have been looking at opportunities for **e-assessment** and the use of **e-portfolios** within Skills for Work Courses.

10 pilot centres and 3 Courses have been involved:

- Early Education and Childcare Int. 1
- Financial Services Int. 2
- Construction Crafts Int. 1

We have worked closely with an external company to install their e-portfolio software in the 10 centres, and to train staff in its use.

Feedback to date has been very positive.

At the moment we have developed alternative NAB assessments, in e-assessment format, for one unit from each of the three Courses.

During the coming year, we plan to extend the range of e-assessment opportunities to cover all units within the three Courses. We also plan to extend the number of centres taking part in the e-assessment pilot... and perhaps the number of Courses.

We'll keep you updated on progress and feedback from this exciting development.



Construction Crafts, Motherwell College

Candidate Survey



You may remember we surveyed all candidates due to complete their Skills for Work Course last summer. Nearly 300 in total.

The results were very positive, and were featured in our report *A review of the first year of the pilot*. Still available for download from our Webpages – www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork

Recently, we sent out 2000 questionnaires - one for every candidate due to complete their Course this summer.

We're looking forward to reading their comments on their Skills for Work experiences.

Once we've analysed the results, we'll make them available to you on our Webpages.

Can you help?

We already know we 'missed' a number of school/college candidates who had completed their Course, and returned to their school for exam leave... before the questionnaires arrived in the college.

If you are aware of Skills for Work candidates in your centre, who have completed their Course, and who have not had the opportunity to complete the survey... please get in touch with us. We'll ensure that the necessary arrangements are made without delay.

Please contact: skillsforwork@sqa.org.uk

The questionnaire is also available in electronic format on our Webpages:

www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork

Thank you!

Lots of you 'rolled up' for the big 'roll out'...

Three new Skills for Work Courses have been launched:

Engineering Skills	Intermediate 1
Hospitality	Intermediate 1
Health and Social Care	Higher

Attendance at the events held at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Glasgow recently was good. Feedback from delegates on the Course materials was very positive.

These three new Courses are **not being piloted**. They are now available for delivery by all centres with appropriate partnerships – subject to SQA's normal **approval** processes.

Course documentation is available for download from our website:

www.sqa.org.uk/skillsforwork



Delegates at the Hospitality launch

...As well as the three new Courses being available to all centres... **the ten pilot Skills for Work Courses** will be available to all centres from session 2007/08 – again, subject to SQA's normal approval processes.

A couple of points worth noting by pilot centres...

If you were approved to deliver particular Skills for Work Course(s) during the pilot, **your approval will continue** – for these Course(s) outwith the pilot. This includes the revised, and re-coded, Early Education and Childcare Int. 2 Course.

You will need to seek approval for any **new**, or **additional**, Skills for Work Course(s) you wish to deliver outwith the pilot.

Information on our approval processes, and the necessary application form, can be found on our Website:

www.sqa.org.uk/approval

Watch this space...

A couple of developments are on the horizon:

Quality Networks

Plans are underway for running Quality Network events in session 2007/08 **for all Skills for Work Courses**.

These events - designed primarily for deliverers, assessors and internal verifiers - will provide an opportunity to share experiences, and to discuss interpretation of materials and standards with SQA staff, and staff from other centres delivering the same Course.

The subject specific quality networks will be open to **all approved centres** delivering a Skills for Work Course.

Employers' Guide

We are looking to help employers better understand the distinct features of Skills for Work qualifications by developing an Employers' Guide.

The guide will clarify:

- the aims and rationale for SFW Courses
- their focus on employability skills
- the benefits being gained by young learners

... and the benefits to employers themselves - through getting involved in partnerships delivering Skills for Work Courses... and employing young people who have successfully completed a Skills for Work Course in whatever vocational area.

We would welcome hearing about your experiences of working successfully in partnership with an employer or training provider.

Perhaps you can share with us the information you passed on to your partner(s)... and the sorts of questions you were asked.

THANKS...

Please contact: skillsforwork@sqa.org.uk