

ANNEX I TO THE ASSESSMENT STRATEGY ACTIVE LEISURE AND LEARNING – PLAYWORK

Background

In July 2002, PSAG approved the Assessment Strategy submitted by SkillsActive (then SPRITO), the recognised Standards Setting Body for the Active Leisure and Learning sector. It was further revised and approved by UKCG in October 2006. The strategy sets out the recommendations for the assessment and quality control systems required for National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications coming under the SkillsActive umbrella and should always be referred to for full details of assessment requirements. The strategy makes clear that certain sections may require a qualification specific annex to detail any specialist requirements which could not be contained in the generic document.

Occupational Competence for Assessors, Internal and External Verifiers in Playwork

Assessment strategy sections 4.1.1, 4.3.4, and 5.2.3 set out the criteria for their appointment and a bullet point in each section states that they are expected to “match the technical criteria which are developed for each occupational area or sporting context to ensure their current technical competence in relation to verifying the units being assessed” and “Be occupationally competent in the area appropriate to the level of the qualifications they are to be verifying or assessing”

What follows are the specific criteria for the Playwork sector and they apply equally to prospective External and Internal Verifiers and Assessors, who must:

Required criteria:

1. Have worked with children and young people as a Playworker in settings underpinned by the Playwork Principles.
2. Demonstrate Playwork experience, knowledge and skills required to make accurate judgements about others' competence.
3. Have knowledge and understanding of, and commitment to, the Playwork Principles.

4. Have actively and consistently participated in a process of current and relevant continuous professional development to keep up to date with best Playwork practice. This must be evidenced by a reflective account (this could include attendance at sector training days, seminars and conferences, training, reading and face to face work)

Desirable criteria;

1. A relevant and nationally recognised Playwork training course or qualification from the NQF in England/Wales and Northern Ireland or the SCQF in Scotland. Or an action plan to achieve such.

Appointment process for External verifiers

Assessment strategy section 4.1 states that “every Awarding Body to seek advice, as and when required, from the SSC on the technical qualifications, experience and competence of prospective External Verifiers in the selection and deployment of EVs”; in addition, to assist this process for Playwork External Verifiers the sector recommends that:

1. Each prospective EV is asked to submit a personal statement concerning their work in play and the sector’s Principles.
2. Awarding bodies have an occupationally competent member on their interview panels.