



National Units

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2017

Playwork and Childcare

Introduction

The cognate group 410 contains three National Qualifications:

NPA Playwork and Childcare at SCQF level 5 (GL2Y 45) consists of five mandatory units and one optional unit:

Mandatory units

- HC3C 45 Development and Wellbeing of Children and Young People
- HC38 45 Children and Young People: Rights and Protection
- HC39 45 Children and Young People: Practice of Play
- HC37 45 Children and Young People: Process of Play
- HC3L 45 Working with Children and Young People

Optional units

- HC3K 45 Supporting Children and Young People in a Play Setting
- HC3N 45 Supporting Children and Young People in an Out of School Care
- HC36 45 Supporting Children in an Early Learning and Childcare Setting
- DM65 11 Supporting Children with Additional Support Needs
- F7JK 12 Provide Play Sessions in a Sport Environment

NPA Play in a Sports Environment at SCQF level 6 (G9GE 46) consists of three units. All three must be completed for the group award:

- F7JH 12 Working with Children and Young People to Provide Play in a Sport Environment
- F7JJ 12 Health, Safety and Wellbeing of Children and Young People in a Sport Environment
- F7JK 12 Provide Play Sessions in a Sport Environment

NPA Social Services: Children and Young People at SCQF level 6 (GL79 46) consists of five mandatory units:

- HF5A 46 Play for Children and Young People
- HF5F 46 Communication with Children and Young People
- HF5D 46 Safeguarding of Children and Young People
- HF5E 46 Promote the Wellbeing and Safety of Children and Young People (0.5)
- HF59 46 Development of Children and Young People (0.5)

The **NPA Playwork and Childcare** and the **NPA Play in a Sports Environment** are established awards and have therefore been externally verified in this academic session. External verification activity in 2015–16 sampled across the range of units and awards in schools, colleges and training providers. The **NPA Social Services: children and young people** is a new qualification in session 2016–17 and only approvals have taken place to date.

Category 2: Resources

Criterion 2.4: There must be evidence of initial and ongoing reviews of assessment environments; equipment; and reference, learning and assessment materials.

External verification found that centres had procedures in place for reviewing assessment environments; equipment and resources; reference, learning and assessment materials. Staff teams were sharing good practice and identifying areas for improvement. Minutes of standardisation meetings highlighted these discussions around reviews of each unit within the award delivered, and demonstrated a commitment to ensuring high quality provision to support the delivery of units.

It was also found that there was regular communication with, and feedback from, learners to discuss and evaluate the course, and this was included in evaluation and review of course delivery.

Category 3: Candidate support

Criterion 3.2: Candidates' development needs and prior achievements (where appropriate) must be matched against the requirements of the award.

External verifiers found that in all centres there were policies and procedures to support students' individual development needs and to identify prior achievement. These included policies and procedures for learning inclusion, alternative assessments, appeals and conflicts of interests. The majority of learners were provided with this information during the induction process and it was also contained within the student handbook.

Most centres (colleges) provided learners with access to dedicated learning support services. These provided assessment and learning support as required. There was also evidence of learning support plans included in the evidence.

Criterion 3.3: Candidates must have scheduled contact with their assessor to review their progress and to revise their assessment plans accordingly.

In all the centres externally verified this session there was evidence of learners having regular contact with their assessor whilst completing the unit during class time, and of the assessor visiting the learners within a play setting for *Working with Children and Young People* in the NPA in Playwork and Childcare. This was recorded within the retained assessment evidence.

Some centres also provided guidance and support time to their learners, which was recorded in personal development records.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

Criterion 4.2: Internal assessment and verification procedures must be implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.

External verifiers found evidence of policy and procedures for assessment and internal verification. They found centres engaged in a number of standardisation activities, for example cross-marking between assessors, and standardisation meetings between assessors and internal verifiers where assessment decisions were discussed and recorded.

All centres were using assessments from SQA assessment support packs and are therefore current, valid, reliable and fair.

Internal verification was based on SQA verification guidance. Policy and procedures ensured that internal verification sampling was taking place as part of prior verification, interim and summative.

There is evidence in internal verification records that assessment materials had been checked for currency, validity, reliability, practicability and to ensure consistency with equality, diversity and inclusion guidelines.

Internal verification records showed that this was completed with constructive feedback given when required. Any issues or concerns were identified and actioned, and support and guidance provided where required. Internal verification paperwork was available and sampled accordingly. This was supportive of the assessment process and provided guidance and consistency for assessors.

In some centres, external verifiers found evidence of local networking between centres which was encouraging collective internal verification activity, sharing of good practice, and providing support for understanding unit specifications and requirements.

Criterion 4.3: Assessment instruments and methods and their selection and use must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair.

Visiting verification activity highlighted how successful centres are in providing high quality learning experiences which enable learners to generate evidence in line with national standards for playwork and childcare, and play in a sports environment.

The majority of centres were using SQA developed assessment support packs (ASPs). All the units have SQA ASPs which incorporate a number of assessment methods and cover all evidence requirements in the unit specifications and thereby ensure validity and reliability. Many centres have adapted the format of the ASPs (in font or style), whilst maintaining the rigor of the assessment instrument.

It was clear from verification activity that centres are familiar with the national standards and are consistently making valid, reliable and fair judgements. From the assessment evidence sampled by external verifiers, it was clear that assessment practice is accurate and consistent.

There is evidence of internal verification which has identified accuracy and consistency of assessment practice. Where there has been a concern over assessment judgements, this has been highlighted in internal verification records and actioned during standardisation. Assessment and verification decisions sampled have ensured fairness and equality across the learners.

Criterion 4.4: Assessment evidence must be the candidate's own work, generated under SQA's required conditions.

In all centres, learners are given information about academic malpractice and plagiarism. Most are required to sign a plagiarism statement which confirms they have used correct referencing and that the assessment is their own work.

Many of the assessments sampled are based on the learner's practice within a sport or playwork placements, which has been observed and signed by a placement supervisor or lecturer.

Criterion 4.6: Evidence of candidates' work must be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements.

External verification found that in the majority of centres, evidence presented had been accurately judged against evidence requirements and marking schemes (in the ASPs) which reflected unit specifications and course arrangements documents. External verifiers found that assessors were making consistent judgments on the learners' work and that internal verification was confirming this. Fair and valid feedback was given to all learners on all assessments. For many of the units, learners were producing folio evidence which external verifiers identified as well organised and high-quality evidence, which included assessor observations, practical activities, photographic evidence and reflective accounts. These too had been judged accurately and consistently by assessors across delivering centres.

Criterion 4.7: Candidate evidence must be retained in line with SQA requirements.

External verifiers found that all centres had clear guidance on the retention of evidence in line with SQA requirements and that this was being adhered to. Assessment evidence presented for external verification was in line with SQA guidelines and the request of the external verifier.

Criterion 4.9: Feedback from qualification verifiers must be disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice.

All centres were disseminating information to staff from previous external verification activity. This was evidenced in minutes from standardisation meetings regarding previous external verification reports in which ways to improve practice were discussed, and actioned if recommended.

Areas of good practice reported by qualification verifiers

The following good practice was reported during session 2016–17:

- ◆ External verifier identified use of centre-wide assessment feedback paperwork as good practice, since this ensured consistency of approach regardless of the unit or subject.

Specific areas for development

No areas for development were highlighted during external verification.