



# Assessment Strategy SVQs in Youth Work

## Introduction

The National Youth Agency have developed this strategy on behalf of Joint Education Training Standards (JETS), as the preferred suppliers of youth and community sector standards for the UK, and are responsible for developing an assessment strategy for all its qualifications in Scotland based on National Occupational Standards (NOS) and will be undertaking product review as required in the future. Joint Education and Training Standards (JETS) is a forum which comes together bi-annually to share information, discuss issues relating to professional endorsement and to agree protocols for working practices in youth and community work across the four nations. Each ETS (England, Wales and in Northern Ireland through the all-Ireland group) as well as CLD Standards Council in Scotland has responsibility for approving education and training standards policies and practices within their nation while recognising endorsements of programmes of professional formation by other ETS Committees across the UK and Ireland.

The strategy complements the generic criteria that awarding organisations must meet for the delivery of qualifications on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

JETS works in partnership with awarding organisations in order to deliver quality assessment and is happy to provide appropriate further guidance and support in implementing requirements.

The specific assessment and verification/quality assurance information included in this strategy replaces previous assessment strategies and relates to:

- SVQ 2 in Youth Work - December 2015
- SVQ 3 in Youth Work - December 2015

## 1. Units of assessment

SVQs are competency based qualifications. The Assessment Strategy requires the awarding organisation to provide detail on each of the following listed below:

### Quality assurance

Awarding organisations should take appropriate steps to quality assure assessments at approved centres.

## **Risk assessment**

Awarding organisations should take an approach to their centres based on an assessment of risk with respect to the quality and consistency of assessment.

## **Awarding organisation contact**

Joint Education Training Standards (JETS), will arrange regular contact with awarding organisations, the aim of which will be to promote consistency in the assessment process.

## **2. Workplace Evidence and Simulation**

All performance evidence must come from real workplace practice in Youth Work.

The use of simulation is not allowed for these qualifications.

**Assessment evidence**, although demonstrating competency across the performance and knowledge should, wherever possible, be holistic. This means that learners, where possible, should gather evidence to illustrate competency:

- Across elements and units that naturally link together in terms of whole jobs
- From naturally occurring evidence collected in the workplace;
- Evidence must be authentic, current, sufficient, fit for purpose and valid.
- Workplace evidence may be collected in the context of full time, part time, casual or voluntary employment.

## **3. Requirements for assessors**

All those who assess these qualifications or units must:

- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of best practice in youth work or a related vocational area, in line with any requirements as set out by any relevant national professional organisation;
- hold or be working towards an appropriate Assessor qualification as identified by SQA Accreditation the qualification regulator. Assessors holding older assessor qualifications must be able to demonstrate that they are assessing to the current standards.

All assessors must show current evidence of continuing professional development in a relevant area of practice.

## **4. Requirements for internal quality assurance**

All those who internally quality assure the SVQ qualifications or units must:

- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of best practice in youth work or a related vocational area, in line with any requirements as set out by any relevant national professional organisation;
- hold or be working towards the appropriate Internal Verifier qualification as identified by SQA Accreditation the qualification regulator. Internal Verifiers holding older qualifications must be able to demonstrate that they are verifying to the current standards.

All internal quality assurers/internal verifiers must show current evidence of continuing professional development in a relevant area of practice.

## **5. Requirements for external quality assurance**

All those who externally quality assure these qualifications or units must:

- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of best practice in youth work or a related vocational area, in line with any requirements as set out by any relevant national professional organisation;
- hold or be working towards the appropriate External Verifier qualification as identified by SQA Accreditation the qualification regulator. External Verifiers holder older qualifications must be able to demonstrate that they are verifying to the current standards.

All external quality assurers/external verifiers must show current evidence of continuing professional development in a relevant area of practice.

## **6. Review and evaluation of the strategy**

Joint Education Training Standards (JETS), and the awarding organisations will monitor the effectiveness of the Assessment Strategy. It will be reviewed annually and revised, where necessary, every two years. The feedback will also be used to review assessment and quality assurance practices, identify and promulgate best practice and inform improvement to the strategy and to future revisions to NOS and qualifications.