



A TIME OF CHANGE

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often"

John Henry Newman

This will be my last Care Scotland Bulletin editorial as I move to be Learning and Development Manager for Cora Learning. I have really enjoyed my three years at SQA — and the major projects that have been undertaken in collaboration with all of you:

- The new HNC in Early Education and Childcare, where important links between Early Years and Playwork have been made
- The new HNC in Social Care where at long last the NOS are properly and explicitly embedded as workplace practice
- The HNC in Health Care which is being revised and will provide a) access to nursing and b) core units to train people who work in Allied Health professions

The last year, in particular, has seen an immense amount of joint working with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) to make the new SVQs in Health and Social Care, along with all the support materials and guidance, available.

These things are just part of what I and the rest of the Care Scotland team have been doing — there's news of other developments throughout this Bulletin.

Other changes which you should know about ... congratulations to Alyson Steel who goes on maternity leave in June, and to Caroline Douglas who has gained a well-earned promoted post in SQA as a Qualifications Officer. Karen Crawford is still the mainstay of the team and I know you will support her through all these changes. We will inform you of replacements as soon as possible.

Enough of goodbyes. I must offer two more welcomes:

- Sarah Sayers has been appointed as full-time External Verifier for Childcare and Playwork
- Pat Tonner has been appointed full-time External Verifier for Health and Social Care

We are very pleased to have two such experienced colleagues in these posts, and consider them the Care Scotland 'outreach team'.

Let me conclude by saying that none of the work I have accomplished at SQA could have been done without the tremendous work done by Karen, Alyson and Caroline, and I am taking this opportunity to thank them publicly.

Finally, let me say — thanks again to all of you — and do keep in touch — I'm not going very far away.

Carla Findlay

Carla Findlay
Care Scotland Manager



CareScotland

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SCOTTISH
QUALIFICATIONS
AUTHORITY 

STOP PRESS

Welcome Eleanor

We are pleased to tell you that Eleanor Ramsay has been appointed as the new Care Scotland Manager, and will start at the beginning of July.

Eleanor has many years experience as a Social Worker, and then as an FE lecturer. She comes to SQA from her most recent post of Head of Faculty for Care and Supported Learning at Kilmarnock College, and will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to SQA.

More on Eleanor in the November Bulletin...

A Note from Margaret

All too soon my secondment to full-time External Verifier is at an end. It has been a very rewarding experience and I have been welcomed at centres all over Scotland.

What an eventful year it has been — we've seen the validation and launch of the new HNC in Social Care, and the completion and launch of the revised National Occupational Standards in Health and Social Care. It was a privilege to be part of it all and to hear the enthusiasm and praise for the new awards.

I was particularly pleased, in December, to recommend approval to offer the new HNC for two well-known and respected SQA centres — VSA in Aberdeen and the UK Centre for Continuing Professional Development in

Glasgow. As the first approved centres that are not further education colleges, both rose well to the challenge of developing innovative and creative teaching materials and assessments, and were able to demonstrate their ability to offer students a flexible programme of study which I am confident will meet their needs. Both courses will begin in January. We all wish them every success. (There's more about this in the next story.)

I will be continuing as Senior Moderator on a part-time basis, at least for this year, and I look forward to seeing many of you as I visit centres, and at the many events planned for 2005.



Margaret Graham

Health Care update

Jennifer Tollemache from Falkirk College, Senior External Verifier for Health Care, surveys the latest developments:

The HNC Health Care is currently being revised and prepared for re-validation. The Steering Group is chaired by David Killean (Borders College), and members are working towards validation in 2005. Changes to the current programme will include the inclusion of a Graded Unit to bring this award

into alignment with SQA's Higher National Qualification design rules, and will provide candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to link their learning across Units.

Candidates completing the currently-endorsed HNC Health Care route are now successfully articulating into Branch programmes, and NHS Education Scotland (NES) will be involved in approving the re-validated Award to allow

continued progression into Branch programmes. The Scottish Further Education Funding Council will continue to ignore increases in the number of fundable full-time students on HNC Health Care courses until 2006, when the funding issue will be re-visited.

Building on the HNC Health Care, the Scottish Executive's Health department has initiated and financially supported a similar development for Allied Health Professions. The HNC Allied Health Professions is moving forward and is being led by Alison Plummer (SQA) and Eileen Murphy (Anniesland College). The first 'pathway' of this new HNC will be Radiography, and it should be ready for validation around about May 2005. Other pathways will include Speech & Language Therapy and Physiotherapy.

It is hoped that both of these HNCs (Health Care and Allied Health Professions) will have common Core Units — with selected options for named pathways which will be recognised by the appropriate professional body. The model will enable practitioners who gain an HNC to work in health care settings, but also to change career if

desired to another department with just a small specialist 'top up'.

There is one more development in Health Care that I would like to draw your attention to, as this is a really serious issue and people need to be aware of it. I'm sure you're aware that there is increasing scope for plagiarism, but I was surprised to see the following on the internet recently:

My friend has just started an HNC in Health Care course as a mature student with a view to entering midwifery. As it is a long time since she has written an essay, she's finding it difficult. She has been asked to write about 'the development of Health Care Policy; examine the major social, economic and political influences which have shaped Health Care provision'. If anyone can help her on this I would be so grateful — I owe a lot to her and to help her on this occasion would be brilliant.

September 2000

The surprising thing was that an essay response provided by a sympathetic surfer was posted almost by return! Please be on your guard.

Perioperative care

If you wonder what this is — it is the new name for what was previously known as Operating Department Support/Practice.

There are three new Awards:

- SVQ Perioperative Care level 2
- SVQ Perioperative Care (Anaesthetic/PACU) level 3
- SVQ Perioperative Care (Surgical Support) level 3

Skills for Health, the Sector Skills Body for Health Awards has developed new standards for a large number of specialist areas in Health, and this is one area we at SQA are particularly interested in as there is a significant uptake of the SVQs in this field. We hope that some of you reading this, who have not used SVQs before will consider using the new Awards, as they do give workers a qualification which is nationally recognised and deems them occupationally competent to do their job.

We had a very successful consultation event in Perth on 22 March, approximately 50 people attended from hospitals all over Scotland. Thanks are due to Marion Gates and Stuart Somerville, two of the External Verifiers for Operating Department SVQs who have done a huge amount of work in relation to the new standards. They provided user-friendly Assessment Guidance and excellent exemplars, all of which was well received by the participants.

All the paperwork for these three new SVQs has been submitted for Accreditation at SQA, and the Awards will be available very soon.

Information Sheets showing the list of Units in the SVQs are available.

Should you require any further information, please call us at Care Scotland on 0141-242 2344.

A new departure

Two new centres (VSA in Aberdeen and the UK Centre for Continuing Professional Development in Glasgow) are the first non-college organisations to be approved to offer the new HNC Social Care. Here, Bert Lawrie, head of training for VSA and an SQA External Verifier, explains why and how...

Voluntary Service Aberdeen (VSA) has recently been approved to offer the new HNC in Health and Social Care for its Residential Childcare staff at Linn Moor School. The school provides Residential Care and Education for up to 30 students (children) with moderate to severe challenging behaviour — over half are further challenged by autism.

The HNC Training has been designed to fit around the working life of the school, and the idea is that the programme will be delivered at times that suit the staff, including weekends. Minimum disruption to the operation of the school is one of the desired goals.

VSA's Training Section has already embarked on matching the existing training to the HN outcomes. We are also matching our existing training programmes to the revised Social Care HN Units which will be offered to staff.

Over 70 staff have to undertake the HNC over the next three years, with 100 having to undertake the SVQ level 3.

The design of the HNC assessment is fully integrated, and follows the SQA Assessment Strategy. It is also geared to improving and monitoring existing practice, particularly in relation to autism and challenging behaviour, so all staff will undertake the Working with Autism Unit, and use the material gained from working with a Linn Moor Child as part of the HN Integrated Assessment on Care Planning.

Fifteen staff start their HNC in March with a further group in Autumn. Simultaneously a group will start their SVQ then start their HNC in 2006. Our being approved to offer the HNC is planned to consolidate



The first group of HNC candidates from Kibble Care and Education Centre working with the UKCPD

as well as build on existing practice in Residential Childcare. We have an HNC Co-ordinator in place, and are converting a cottage into a study/resource centre with access to computers for computer-based learning. Already, some of our training is in an e-learning format — this will be further extended for our HNC staff.

In addition to our Childcare staff we also plan to offer Adult Care staff access to individual HN Units on Mental Health, Dementia, and Supervision Skills as part of a CPD programme from 2006 onwards.

Brendan Harris, Chief Executive of the UK Centre for Continuing Professional Development in Glasgow (UKCCPD) and chair of the HNC Steering Group, adds:

The new HNC provides an excellent means of integrating theory and practice. At the UKCCPD, we are delighted to be able to offer this way of helping partner organisations improve practice and achieve their SSSC registration targets.

We started our first group in January with staff from Kibble Education and Care centre and from the Men Can Care ESF project. We are very pleased to include two foster parents from Intensive Fostering Services in this first group. Our second group begins in April, with a third programme planned for September.

Our teaching team combines current expertise from education and social work management and practice, as well as a depth of experience in the delivery of SVQs.

The training is delivered in the new Training Suite at Kibble, and students have access to the TLC Learning Base where they use computers to carry out research on the internet etc.

Students complete their SVQ alongside the HNC, making a start on their practice portfolio three months into the course. In this way students will maximise their learning and build bridges between theory and practice. We are following the SQA Integrated Assessment Strategy, and believe that the new framework will strengthen the practice base for students. The choice of options in particular is most impressive, and we are going to make these available for CPD in the future.

Students and teaching staff have enthusiastically welcomed the revised HNC Social Care. They believe it provides an up-to-date, flexible and relevant learning experience.

Health and Safety web-based resources

A survey of what's available on the web by Pat Tonner, our new full-time External Verifier.

A number of projects I am currently involved with aim to encourage staff who teach and assess Care courses to make more use of the internet. As part of this, I have been surfing the world wide web to find suitable websites which can be mapped to individual Units on Care courses. There is such a vast range of information on the internet relating to health and care in general that it is often a very time consuming and frustrating task for lecturers and assessors to undertake. I have therefore done all the spadework and would recommend the following sites when teaching or assessing the SVQ Unit Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health Safety and Security in the Workplace. The sites are recommended because they:

- are authoritative — wherever possible official Government sites are used
- are current and regularly updated
- are accessible

- have an interactive area or downloadable leaflets
- apply to Scotland

Health & Safety Executive

www.hse.gov.uk

Safe and Healthy Working – NHS Scotland

www.sahw.co.uk/index.cfm

AVERT Aids – Occupational Exposure to HIV

www.avert.org/needlestick.htm

Health Protection Scotland – Standard Infection Control Precautions

www.show.scot.nhs.uk/scieh/infectious/hai/infection_control/SICP/StandardPrecautions.htm

Food Standards Agency – food hygiene

www.food.gov.uk/safereating

BBC Interactive First Aid

www.bbc.co.uk/firstaid

Management qualifications and registration with the SSSC

This is just a very short article to ensure all of you are aware of the various Management qualifications which are available from SQA and which would meet the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) requirements for Registration.

- 1 The SVQ Registered Manager in Health and Social Care level 4 (commonly and fondly known as the RMA)
- 2 SVQ Managers in Residential Child Care level 4
- 3 Diploma in Care Service Management (PDA) — this is the replacement for the old Advanced Certificate in Supervising and Managing Personal Social Services
- 4 Certificate in Early Education and Childcare level 8 (PDA)
- 5 SVQ Early Years Care and Education level 4

There are other non-SQA qualifications which meet the SSSC requirements — for example, the Open University K303, as this is 60 credits at level 8 (or above). For any other qualifications where you are unsure, it is best to phone the SSSC directly on: 0845 603 0891.

Celebrating SVQ Success

On January 17, David Kelly, Director of Community and Support Services, West Lothian Council, hosted a lunch at Howden Park Arts Centre. This was to congratulate Social Policy staff who have achieved awards or were involved in supporting them to obtain their Scottish Vocational Qualification.



Grahame Blair, Head of Social Policy and other senior managers joined David in congratulating staff and thanked the assessors and verifiers for all their hard

work. As most of the SVQ assessors and verifiers are operational staff, he acknowledged the efforts they make to find the time to support the SVQ process.

David said, 'An SVQ ensures that staff demonstrate their skills and knowledge while carrying out their job. This is particularly reassuring for us as a council, especially when so many of you are dealing with vulnerable individuals.'

Ideally we hope that in going through the SVQ process, you will have reflected on your practice and that in doing so it will have given you greater confidence in your own skills and knowledge.'



The council gained approval for our own Community and Support Services SVQ Assessment Centre in late 1999, and since then 184 people have completed awards. Most of these are Social Policy staff employed in administration and social service roles.

Here are some of the comments candidates have made about their experiences of undertaking SVQs.

'I found the process very beneficial and whilst I was carrying out the tasks on a day-to-day basis, putting my practice into the written format gave me better opportunities to reflect on my role. The SVQs have boosted my confidence in light of my own professional development.'

Nicola Findlay

'I found to my surprise that I was enjoying it (progression award) and found it quite stimulating, and it has given me the enthusiasm to develop my skills further by continuing on to hopefully achieve the SVQ level 2.'

Ethel Wilson

'I enjoyed working on my SVQ level 2 and am delighted to have achieved this. Since achieving this I have a new found confidence at work and am taking the bull by the horns (so to speak) and am currently working towards achieving my SVQ level 3.'

Jean MacDonald

Claire Frame, SVQ Centre Co-ordinator would like to thank SQA for their assistance in providing support material.



School staff go **back to class**



Harmeny School in Balerno recently held an awards ceremony to celebrate remarkable success in staff attaining nationally-recognised qualifications. The school is part-funded by the Scottish Executive Education Department as a national resource for Scotland, and specialises in working with children who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and their families and carers. Harmeny believes that the best quality service can only be provided by a highly trained and qualified workforce.

The key to this success has been Harmeny's decision to turn the school into a learning organisation not just for the children but for staff as well. Peter Doran, who as Care Manager has been the major driver behind the training initiative, said 'Residential child care has its unique challenges. However, it also is an extremely rewarding career where Social Work and Social Care staff can make a real and visible difference to the life chances of children. We believe in the highest standards of practice and have ensured through our investment in learning programme that we have the skills to achieve those standards.'

Carole Wilkinson, Chief Executive of the Scottish Social Services Council (which oversees all social work and social care education in Scotland), presented the awards, which included 25 SVQ level 3s, five Assessor Awards, two Social Work Diplomas, and four Post Qualification Awards in Social Work. Carla Findlay, Care Scotland Manager, also attended the award ceremony.



'The value of doing the training' Carole said 'is not just about being qualified, though that is important; it gives you confidence, and gives those you are seeking to help confidence — that is the parents, children and young people. There is evidence that trained and qualified staff provide better high quality services. Why as a parent would you want less for your children?'

This impressive success in learning and development is now being replicated in all departments throughout the Trust, including education, administration and support staff. More celebrations to follow!

Thank you for your comments...

We would like to give a big thank you to all of those who completed and returned the feedback form we sent out with the November 2004 Bulletin. Some very positive comments were made, and we gained knowledge of what changes or additions could be made to the bulletin.

Many of you found the publication informative and interesting. You said it was nicely presented and easy to read. A great way of keeping you informed. It is also good to be in the loop of what other sectors are doing.

What you suggested:

- more FAQs and more on the childcare sector

- information on any new developments in the care of older people
- a wider variety of organisations represented in future editions
- articles regarding candidates concerns and anxieties so that staff undertaking awards can see what can be achieved
- examples of good practice which other centres can benefit from

There are many more ideas which have come through from these feedback forms and we will try to take on board all of your comments by collating all the information together in order to continue improving our bulletin. **Care Scotland Team.**

Internal Verification

The topic of Internal Verification has arisen in a number of situations recently.

The External Verifiers discussed it at their Standardisation; it was a workshop topic at the SQA Care Events; and it arose in conversation at the launch of the new standards in relation to the Assessment Guidance.

What has emerged is that in general there is too much Internal Verification being done for the Care Awards. This short article is simply to ask all centres to re-visit their existing Verification Strategy, and decide if you feel you are doing too much Internal Verification work (or not enough). Factors you should consider when deciding are:

- A clear understanding of the role of the IV
- Existing experience of assessors
- How to support new assessors
- Number of candidates one assessor has
- Experience in the centre of SVQ delivery and previous IV work

There must be an acceptance that the Assessor is the person who makes the assessment decision, and that the IV should not 'second assess'. Not every SVQ Unit in everyone's portfolio has to be looked at by an Internal Verifier — but over a period of time (eg a year or other suitable timescale) all Units (again, not in every portfolio) should be sampled.

Finally, if you need any further help on this, please contact either your External Verifier or any member of the Care Scotland team.

Facing the Challenge — achieving a confident, competent workforce

This is the name of an ESF Objective 3 project, shortened to 'Achieving the Challenge' for simplicity.

Despite a great deal of effort by a lot of people, the number of people in the social care workforce with a qualification has stayed persistently low, at about 20%. This is not good enough for the people we work with and those who care for them. Social Care Workers are valuable to their organisations and valued by the people they work with. Registration with the Scottish Social Services Council will formally recognise the contribution they make.

This project aims to improve the situation and make a steep change to the numbers of people with a qualification. By this time next year, we aim to have assisted 450 more care workers from the specified groups to achieve their qualifying award.

If you think you can benefit and you are willing to put in the required effort, please check with your manager as we have already mailed every eligible registered care provider in the objective 3 area. Alternatively, you can visit the website at: www.achievingthechallenge.com where you can register your interest or you can call our free phone number on 0800 652 2980 to find out more about what you need to do and we look forward to hearing from you.

Brian Corrigan, Social Care Association

The New SVQs in Health and Social Care: the questions you most frequently ask

1 Can I carry forward Units from the 'old' SVQs in Care to the new SVQs in Health and Social Care?

It is not possible to carry 'old' Units into the new Awards, but you can use any relevant evidence you may have collected for 'old' Units to provide evidence for Units in the new Awards. However, if you have already undertaken several Units of the old Award, it is recommended that you continue with this, as you actually have until January 2007 to complete level 2; January 2008 to complete level 3; and January 2009 to complete level 4. We hope of course you will complete long before that!

2 How many Units do you have to take at each level to gain an SVQ in Health and Social Care?

For SVQ level 2, there are six Units, which can be chosen in two possible combinations. For Care Workers who wish or need to be registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), all four Core Units must be taken, plus two Optional Units. However, in some health care settings, where registration is not an issue, the SVQ level 2 can be achieved by taking two Core Units, two Options, and the final two from either the Core or the Options section.

The SVQ level 3 and SVQ level 4 have four Core Units and four Options.

3 Will there be new SPAs (Scottish Progression Awards) based on the new standards? If so, how many Units will they have?

The answer partly depends on YOU! Currently, the SSSC is running a 'Skill Sets' working group which is looking at groups of Units which might be suitable for workers in specific settings — for example, mental health, supported housing, dementia. There is SQA representation on this group, and initially —

and soon — they will discuss SPAs. After this, SQA will invite those of you who currently use SPAs to a consultation to ask if you think there is still a need for any SPAs in specific areas of work, eg Home Care. So, watch this space!

4 Are these new SVQs accepted for registration with the SSSC?

Yes — the new SVQs will be accepted for registration with the SSSC. Requirements for registration are set out on the SSSC's website at: www.sssc.uk.com

5 What areas of work are covered in the Core (or Mandatory Units)?

These Units cover the following subject areas at levels 2, 3 and 4:

- Principles of care, well-being and protection
- Communication
- Health and Safety
- Personal/Professional Development

6 Is there any overlap between SVQs — eg can some SVQ level 2 Units be carried over to SVQ level 3 — or SVQ level 3 to SVQ level 4?

No. There is no overlap at all between levels. Each SVQ is discrete, and although the same 'topics' may appear at more than one level, the standards are written to meet the job role at the appropriate level.

7 The previous SVQs were very difficult to understand. Are the new SVQs any clearer?

Yes, these SVQs are written in plain English, and clearly state what you are expected to do to demonstrate competence.

8 I have heard of Skill Sets ... what are they?

See question 3. One further possibility is that a Skill Set does not just have to be made up with SVQ Units — but could also be a mix of Higher National Units and SVQ Units.

9 Where are the 'range' requirements in the new SVQs?

There are NO range requirements in the new Awards. There is SCOPE – which should not be confused with range. There is a statement about 'scope' at the beginning of every Unit which provides SUGGESTIONS on possible areas to cover relevant to job roles. This does not mean that the assessor has to observe all the items listed — these are suggestions only.

10 Will I be able to use the same piece of evidence of practice to demonstrate competence for PCs in several Units?

Yes, you may use evidence to demonstrate as many Performance Criteria as are genuinely and clearly covered by that evidence. This may well cover more than one Unit. In fact, 'holistic' assessment (or cross-referencing) is encouraged as good practice.

11 Are SVQs and NVQs equivalent? Does it matter which Awarding Body presents them?

All the SVQs and NVQs in Health and Social Care are based on the same National Occupational Standards, which were developed on a UK-wide basis. The Evidence Requirements

for each Unit were also devised jointly by UK Awarding Bodies, and therefore SVQs and NVQs are equivalent for SSSC Registration purposes.

12 Do Assessors need a qualification in care?

'Assessors must be occupationally competent in the Units they will assess, and be knowledgeable about legislation and codes of practice in relation the health and social care settings.' This MAY be demonstrated through the possession of a relevant qualification. Please note that if the assessor does not have a relevant qualification — that in time the candidates they are assessing may be more qualified than the assessors. With this in mind we suggest that if you submit a form requesting approval of an assessor who does not have a relevant qualification, that you also provide information on when the assessor is likely to undertake a qualification.

Thanks to Janet Miller for providing this article. Janet was a Learning and Development Officer formerly of the SSSC, and is now Director of the Voluntary Sector Forum for Scotland. Should you have any queries with regard to the new awards as you try to get to grips with them please do not hesitate to contact us.

Playwork developments

SQA and SkillsActive held a conference in March to look at the new and emerging theories in Play and Playwork. The conference was a success and the evaluation and feedback was excellent.

Delegates at the conference were asked to take part in a questionnaire regarding the SPA Accessing Playwork award and a proposed SVQ level 4 Playwork. Full details of the results of this consultation will be in the SQA Playwork Newsletter.

The Playwork Conference was also an opportunity to not only show but also to launch the new SQA Playwork DVD. This was again received well, and many orders were put in on the day. The DVD looks at new and emerging theories in Playwork and has a workbook to complement it. The cost is £9.99 for the DVD and £9.99 for the workbook which will be on a CD-ROM. Telephone the Customer Contact Centre on 0845 279 1000 to place an order.

The current SVQ level 3 Playwork has been extended to Dec 2005. This is mainly due to the fact that the revised Playwork SVQ level 3 is not yet ready as the Evidence Requirements are still being discussed in SkillsActive.

Further details of all Playwork information including photos from the conference will appear in the next Playwork Newsletter, which is due out in spring.

(Contributed by Debbie Willett)

For further information on Playwork qualifications please contact Paul Gallacher on 0141-242 2328.



Update on Early Education and Childcare Qualifications

HNC Early Education and Childcare

The new HNC is now being delivered in 10 centres and we expect to carry out central moderation on completed Graded Unit Assessments in June this year. Arrangements for sampling have yet to be finalised.

It is hoped that as many centres as possible will offer the new HNC from August 2005. The content of the award is up-to-date and provides opportunities for candidates to gain a qualification to meet workplace demands and SSSC registration requirements across a wide range of early education and childcare settings.

Assessment Exemplars are available for all mandatory Units from the secure section of SQA's website and work is ongoing on support materials by COLEG and SQA.

PDA Early Education and Childcare

The new award has now been successfully validated and Unit specifications are currently in the process of finalisation. Development of Assessment Exemplars is in progress.

The last entry date for the current PDA Childcare and Education is 31/7/2006. Candidates will have two years to complete until 31/7/2008.

SVOs in Early Years Care and Education

At present the accreditation date for SVOs in Early Years Care and Education levels 2, 3 and 4 has been extended until 30/9/2005. However, due to a delay with the new SVOs in Children's Care, Learning and Development, it is likely that the above accreditation date will be extended further, until 31/10/2005. Entries for the awards will be accepted until 31/10/2005 and candidates will have 2, 3 and 4 years to complete (dependent on the level of qualification). We therefore hope that the new SVOs will be available from 1 November 2005.

NC Group Award Early Education and Childcare

The new award was launched in January. There are 13 mandatory credits at SCQF level 6 and 5 optional credits at SCQF levels 5 and 6. Some support materials for the mandatory Units have been developed and some are under development and will be available from SFEU. NABs have also been developed for the mandatory Units and these are available from SQA.

Intermediate 1 and 2 Skills for Work Courses

At present work is ongoing on developing both the above awards. The Skills for Work Courses are being funded by the Scottish Executive and piloted across Scotland. The courses are intended for school/college/training provider partnerships to deliver to S3 and S4 pupils.

Skills for Work Courses are designed to help candidates to develop:

- skills and knowledge in a broad vocational area
- Core Skills
- an understanding of the workplace
- positive attitudes to learning
- skills and attitudes for employability

The Courses emphasise learning through practical experience and by reflecting on experience. Pupils should be capable of Standard Grade at General level for an Intermediate 1 Course and Standard Grade at Credit level for an Intermediate 2 Course.

Each Course will carry four credit points at either SCQF level 4 (Intermediate 1) or SCQF level 5 (Intermediate 2). There will be three mandatory Units at each level and one optional Unit.

For further information on the National Certificate; Intermediate 1; Intermediate 2 awards please contact Tom Stannage on 0141-242 2343.

Contact us

Care Scotland helpline

If you would like more detailed information about any of the qualifications listed inside: HNCs, SVQs, SPAs, PDAs — or have a general centre enquiry, contact us at:

 0141-242 2344

or

 carescotland@sqa.org.uk

Quality Network dates

These dates are to follow. Look out for the quality network information sheet coming your way shortly.

NHS helpline

For qualifications relevant to workers in the NHS (not just Care), contact the NHS helpline:

 0141-242 2364

or

 nhs@sqa.org.uk

NQ helpline

For enquiries related to National Qualifications in the Care area, contact Tom Stannage on:

 0141-242 2343

SSSC helpline

For enquiries relating to registration requirements set by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), please contact them directly on:

 0845 60 30 891

or

 enquiries@sssc.uk.com