NQ Verification 2017–18
Key Messages Round 1

01 ▶ Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	**Childcare and Development**
Verification event/visiting information	**Postal**
Date published:	**March 2018**

National Courses/Units verified:

H4KL 76   Higher   Child Development

02 ▶ Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Overall, the assessment approaches were satisfactory. None of the centres had significantly changed the unit assessment support packs (UASPs) so they did not require prior verification. All centres verified used the UASP Package 1, unit-by-unit approach to assessment.

Assessment judgements

Overall, the assessment judgements were satisfactory and feedback to candidates from assessors was supportive, detailed and constructive. However, in one centre's case, the evidence provided was not deemed to be of a sufficiently high standard for SCQF level 6. This was mainly due to a lack of analysis and evaluation by the candidates, especially in assessment standards 1.3 and 1.4. There was no referencing evidenced and this again made work descriptive and anecdotal. This was picked up by the internal verifier but not actioned by the centre, meaning that the assessment judgements were found to be lenient.

03 Section 3: General comments

In general, candidates must be encouraged to improve their skills in referencing using the Harvard system to ensure they provide evidence of personal research. Sections 1.3 and 1.4 remain challenging for candidates, with responses to these sections continuing to be very descriptive. Centres are reminded that there is no requirement to remediate section 1.4, as per the SQA's review report.

There is growing evidence of good practice in Curriculum for Excellence in terms of choice for candidates, with various styles being submitted in the evidence samples. Candidates were encouraged to choose their own case studies, allowing for personalisation and choice. In all cases, there was evidence of internal verification. Verification can occur at any point during the assessment process, not just at the end, and centres should be encouraged to use the SQA IV Toolkit prior to external verification (www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit). It must always be made clear whether work is a first or second attempt, and where remediation is required this must be clearly documented.