



Parkinson's UK & SQA – Recognised Training for Health Care Professionals

SQA's Credit Rating service helps organisations in the public, private and third sectors across Scotland achieve recognition and value from their in-house training programmes by helping position them on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

SQA has been working with Parkinson's UK since 2012, when we helped with their *Understanding Parkinson's for Health and Social Care Staff* qualification.

The charity had received feedback over a number of years that many health and social care professionals did not fully understand Parkinson's, and that carers and families were not always confident that staff were aware of the complexity and impact of the condition.

In response, Parkinson's UK developed the *Understanding Parkinson's for Health and Social Care Staff* programme to enable carers working in residential, respite, day care, home care or health settings to become facilitators for in-house training programmes. The programme aims to improve knowledge and confidence among all staff to provide quality care for people with Parkinson's and sits within the UK Parkinson's Excellence Network.

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

This programme supports facilitators to share learning with colleagues on:

- the common signs, symptoms and progression of the condition
- the impact of Parkinson's on the subject and on those around them
- processes, procedures, methods, techniques and services to manage it
- issues, side effects and related procedures associated with medication
- associated communication and cognitive challenges, their impact and ways to deal with them

One issue was ensuring the programme was useful for staff development, and comparable to other similar programmes. Jackie Burke, Education Advisor at Parkinson's UK, said:

'We wanted assurance that the quality of our learning programme was of a high standard and credible in Scotland. We had identified a need for health and social care staff to learn and develop a better understanding of the condition, and sought to have this recognised on the SCQF.'

'We recognised SQA as the principal credit rating body in Scotland with an established reputation. We felt confident that we could work together to achieve our aims'

SQA appointed subject experts set the programme at SCQF level 6, with 2 SCQF credit points so that it is now more widely recognised and easy to compare to other programmes. It was recognised at the 2015 Charity Awards, winning the prestigious award for Education and Training. Judges noted that it was an innovative response to a simple but serious problem.

'Our learners are confident that the credit rating for Understanding Parkinson's is credible as it's recognised by SQA, an awarding body used by many organisations in Scotland, and the rest of the UK.'

Parkinson's UK continue to work with SQA to deliver cascade learning and the Understanding Parkinson's Learning Programme as part of their Excellence Network strategy to raise awareness of the condition.

Natalie Tweedie, SQA Credit Rating Manager is delighted with the relationship: ***"SQA credit rates programmes on behalf of organisations in the public, private and third sectors. Working together we bring recognition to a wide variety of training programmes by placing them on the SCQF – allocating a relevant SCQF level and SCQF credits."***

Parkinson's UK

Parkinson's UK aims to ensure that no one has to face Parkinson's alone, campaigning across the country to change attitudes, challenge myths and improve understanding.

It is the largest charity funder of Parkinson's research in the UK, investing over £70million to find a cure for the disease and improve the lives of those affected by the condition. They provide expert information on every aspect of Parkinson's and offer training and resources to help improve services through the Excellence Network.

To find out more about SQA's Credit Rating service visit: www.sqa.org.uk/creditrating
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