

# PDA in **Mental Health Peer Support** at **SCQF level 7**

## Recognising that you care



The Professional Development Award (PDA) in Mental Health Peer Support at SCQF level 7 has been designed for those working in the role of peer support worker. The PDA equips candidates with the knowledge, skills and values which are necessary to carry out this role.

### **Why should my centre deliver this qualification?**

The PDA in Mental Health Peer Support at SCQF level 7 has been designed as a taught course and will normally be delivered through a combination of workshops and self-directed study.

This qualification is aimed at developing the skills and knowledge required for those involved in supporting people recovering from mental health illnesses.

This development was funded by the Scottish Recovery Network.

This qualification is available through colleges and training providers.



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## Who does this qualification suit?

The PDA in Mental Health Peer Support is aimed primarily at candidates who wish to develop their skills in mental health peer support. The primary target group consists of individuals who have personal experience of mental health problems and who wish to take on the role of peer support workers.

Candidates consider the recovery approach and the experience of personal recovery, examining factors that may help or hinder that process. In considering the various forms of peer support, candidates will develop their understanding of the unique role that peer support can play in promoting recovery and develop their learning of the underlying key concepts of formalised peer support roles within mental health support.

## Access

Access to the PDA is at the discretion of the centre. In general, entry should be open to any candidate who can demonstrate, by previous qualifications or experience, a reasonable expectation of successfully completing the PDA. However, candidates wishing to take this PDA should be able to demonstrate awareness of, and active involvement in, mental health support either in the capacity of paid employment or as a volunteer.

## Progression

Successful completion of this PDA may lead to opportunities for employment as a peer support worker. It may also lead to the candidate being able to gain access to a range of other related mental health and social services qualifications.

## Approval

If your centre has devolved authority, you can seek approval through your own internal approval process.

If your centre does not have devolved authority, you will have to come forward for approval and should contact the Business Development Team for guidance in completing the combined CA1/SA1 form.

Assessors and verifiers must have lived experience of mental health problems.

## Assessment

Assessment will consist of a combination of assignments and a portfolio of evidence, both of which will be based on practical real life experiences. Word counts will apply to both instruments of assessment.

## Structure

The PDA in Mental Health Peer Support (16 SCQF credit points) at SCQF level 7 is achieved on the successful achievement of two mandatory Units.

The Group Award Code is G9WA 47

## Mandatory Units

- **Mental Health Peer Support: Recovery Context**
- **Mental Health Peer Support: Developing Practice**



Business Development Team

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