

# PDA in **Brief Interventions for Substance Misuse**

## Recognising that you care



The Professional Development Award (PDA) in Brief Interventions for Substance Misuse at SCQF level 7 is an SQA qualification for people working within the specialism of addictions and related services, delivering brief interventions for substance misuse.

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

The qualification is designed to improve professional practice and focuses on competencies identified within the drugs and alcohol National Occupational Standards, to deliver brief interventions for substance misuse.

This qualification is made up of one HN Unit, and three SVQ Units, all at SCQF level 7. It is available through colleges and private training providers.

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## Who does this qualification suit?

It is anticipated that learners will come from a broad range of job roles. For example:

- non-registered healthcare assistants
- adult nursing professionals
- mental health nursing professionals
- allied health professionals
- social work professionals
- social care support workers
- housing support staff

The PDA in Brief Interventions for Substance Misuse has been designed for delivery as a taught course for the HN Unit, incorporating reading and self-study and learning gained through application and practice for the three SVQ Units. All will be assessed through examples generated by real work experience, reflection and the production of essays.

This award has been designed to be delivered through an inclusive partnership approach engaging with employers, training providers and SQA approved centres. Centres delivering the PDA in Brief Interventions for Substance Misuse at SCQF level 7 must be approved by SQA.

## 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.

## Progression

The Units in the PDA have been mapped against the National Occupational Standards for health and social care. Candidates would have the opportunity of progressing to other PDAs, which could perhaps lead to a full HN qualification or SVQ in Health and Social Care at level 3.

## Approval

Centres 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 be able to meet SQA's general requirements for technical/occupational competence.

## Assessment

The award takes a portfolio-building approach to assessment. The HN Unit will be assessed through essays and reflective accounts which will provide evidence of knowledge and practice, which may also be used for the three SVQ Units. The SVQ Units will be assessed through direct observation, reflective accounts/professional discussion and product evidence.

## Unit(s) and delivery tools

Group Award code: GE7R 47

SCQF level: 7

## Structure

The PDA in Brief Interventions for Substance Misuse is comprised of one mandatory HN Unit and three mandatory SVQ Units:

- **Brief interventions for substance misuse** FY9M 34
- **Carry out screening and referral assessment** DK3N 04
- **Raise awareness about substances, their use and effects** DK4Y 04
- **Support individuals who are substance users** DK8M 04

The Arrangements document is published on SQA's website [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).



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