



## **Qualifications Support Team (QST): HN pharmacy portfolio**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2022 (via Microsoft Teams)**

### **Present:**

Afraa Mahmood	Glasgow Kelvin College
Aileen Begley	External Verifier
Angela Cannon	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Colin Sinclair	NHS Fife
Jonathan Gillies	Qualifications Manager
Laura Gibson	Qualifications Officer
Laura McClelland	Edinburgh College
Suzanne Thompson	West College Scotland
Val Findlay	NHS Education for Scotland

### **Not present:**

Ann White	Glasgow Kelvin College
Carol Neilson	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Fiona Anderson	Edinburgh College
Marion Gates	NHS Fife
Susan Roberts	NHS Education for Scotland

### **Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Apologies were received from Marion Gates.

#### **1. Microsoft Teams**

As part of a pilot scheme the Pharmacy QST will now be hosted on Microsoft Teams through a dedicated EXT-Pharmacy QST site. This will allow meetings to take place, discussions with colleagues, collaboration on documentation and the sharing of files in one secure area. Laura Gibson gave a brief overview of the functions of the site. QST members were asked to provide feedback to the Digital Assessments Services team (DAS) at [das.helpdesk@sqa.org.uk](mailto:das.helpdesk@sqa.org.uk).

#### **2. SVQ in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 6**

Laura Gibson advised Skills for Health have now started a review of the SVQ in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 6. This review will add the three new NOS for pharmacy support workers in primary care into the framework.

- [Contribute to the management of medication audit and review](#)
- [Contribute to the non-clinical medication review](#)
- [Support the prescription administration process](#)

Skills for Health have set up a steering group as part of this review. Jonathan advised that discussions took place at the first meeting of the steering group on where the NOS should sit within the framework, and it was agreed that the NOS should sit in section A of the framework alongside the other pharmacy specific NOS. Skills for Health will now send the revised framework out for consultation which will run from early December to the end of January 2023. The steering group will meet at the end of January to discuss the feedback. Skills for Health advised the review should be complete by March 2023.

### **3. Pharmacy NOS review**

Jonathan gave an update on the Skills for Health review of the pharmacy NOS. Skills for Health consulted with employers, training providers and other key stakeholders to ensure the NOS meets the needs of the sector. Following the consultation, Skills for Health have decided the only NOS to be revised will be Pharm 31. No amendments to any other NOS will be actioned by Skills for Health at this time due to the GPhC currently reviewing their IET standards. QST members raised concerns with this decision as many contributed to the consultation and raised other feedback. Val Findlay is happy to raise this issue with various NHS working groups and if required raise any concerns with SDS/Skills for Health.

### **4. Aseptic units**

A working group has been set up to develop two new aseptic units. The units will be circulated to the working group for comment and then sent for wider consultation from the sector. This consultation process will start mid-January to mid-February 2023. Laura Gibson advised members of the importance of feedback from the sector and would appreciate their support, therefore all QST members will be included in the consultation process and it would be appreciated if they could make sure the units are reviewed by pharmacy professionals working within aseptics.

### **5. Diploma in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 7**

Suzanne highlighted concerns around the entry requirements and recruitment processes for the Diploma in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 7. Employers need to make sure they are carrying out minimal entry requirements checks to make sure learners can cope with the demand of the course and have the relevant underpinning knowledge and skills that is required. Suzanne advised delivering centres are more than happy to provide guidance or answer any questions that employers may have to ensure all requirements are met. It would also be beneficial for employers to inform learners at the recruitment stage that commitment to personal learning time in addition to protected learning time is a vital requirement of the course.

### **6. AOB**

Angela asked if there was any support for centres who have learners with additional support needs. Jonathan advised there is a dedicated Assessment Arrangements team within SQA who can provide

advice and guidance on individual assessment needs. Information can be found on SQA's website <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74922.html> or you can email the Assessment Arrangement team at [aarequests@sqa.org.uk](mailto:aarequests@sqa.org.uk).

It was agreed that the next meeting of the QST would take place in February/March 2023. An online poll will be distributed to QST members to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting.

**Actions**

- QST members to provide feedback to the DAS team at [das.helpdesk@sqa.org.uk](mailto:das.helpdesk@sqa.org.uk) on the new Microsoft Teams site.
- Laura Gibson to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting.

**Action grid**

Action	Date completed
QST members to provide feedback to the DAS team at <a href="mailto:das.helpdesk@sqa.org.uk">das.helpdesk@sqa.org.uk</a> on the new Microsoft Teams site.	
Laura Gibson to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting	