

**Scottish Qualifications Authority**

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

**Minutes of the 1st meeting held on Monday 22nd November 2021 (via Microsoft Teams)**

**Present : Not present:**

Afraa Mahmood Glasgow Kelvin College Angela Cannon NHS

Aileen Begley External Verifier Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Ann White Glasgow Kelvin College Colin Sinclair NHS Fife

Carol Neilson NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Marion Gates NHS Fife

Fiona Anderson Edinburgh College

Jonathan Gillies Qualifications Manager

Laura Gibson Qualifications Officer

Laura McClelland Edinburgh College

Susan Roberts NHS Education for Scotland

Suzanne Thompson West College Scotland

Val Findlay NHS Education for Scotland

 **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Jonathan Gillies welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the pharmacy QST. Apologies had been received from Angela Cannon, Colin Sinclair and Marion Gates.

**2. Remit of the pharmacy QST**

Terms of reference were circulated to QST members in advance of the meeting. Jonathan Gillies explained the remit of the QST, highlighting a key purpose was to monitor, evaluate, address and communicate any issues arising from the delivery, assessment and verification of the pharmacy qualifications.

It was also confirmed that membership of the QST, in the first instance, would include all SQA approved centres and NHS Education for Scotland (NES). Membership of the QST could be expanded in the future to include employer representatives if this was required.

**3. Delivery and/or assessment issues**

QST members discussed the delivery of the new Diploma in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 7, highlighting that the sector was excited by the new training programme for pharmacy technicians. Suzanne Thompson noted that trainees were enjoying the enhanced training programme, developing key skills, knowledge and experience that was already benefiting the sector.

Laura McClelland raised concerns with regard to funding. Susan Roberts advised that discussions with Scottish Government were ongoing and funding for employed trainees would hopefully be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Susan Roberts also advised that NES will invite tenders for the delivery of the new Diploma in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 7 for employed trainees, with delivery expected to commence in April 2022. NES are therefore keen to ascertain what centres would be ready to deliver the new training programme for pharmacy technicians from April 2022 onwards.

Ann White asked if it would be possible for centres to only submit a tender for either the knowledge component (PDA) or the competency component (SVQ). Susan Roberts confirmed that this would be possible to ensure as much flexibility as possible. Jonathan Gillies advised that the new Diploma in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 7 must be delivered as a combined training programme and any centre looking to only delivery the knowledge component (PDA) or the competency component (SVQ) would need to enter into a partnership agreement with another centre.

Val Findlay advised that funding for non-employed trainees accessing the new Diploma in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 7 via a placement had been confirmed by SAAS.

Work-based Assessors was noted as a current challenge, with NES looking at ways to address this challenge and train additional work-based Assessors.

QST members noted that despite the challenges of Covid-19 restrictions online delivery and assessment had been a great success, with all centres keen to continue with online delivery and assessment due to the many benefits.

**Actions**

* Val Findlay to send SAAS funding confirmation e-mail to Laura McClelland and Ann White
* Centres to inform Val Findlay as to whether or not they will be ready to deliver the Diploma in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 7, or a component of the new training programme, by April 2022.

**4. Review of the pharmacy portfolio**

Val Findlay advised that NES were developing a career framework for pharmacy technicians. Jonathan Gillies noted that once the career framework had been developed the pharmacy portfolio of qualifications would be reviewed to ascertain if the current qualifications were fit for purpose and to identify any gaps in provision.

**5. General Pharmaceutical Council** **data collection pilot**

Jonathan Gillies advised that the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) were carrying out a data collection pilot for any trainees on a pre-registration pharmacy technician training programme. Discussions are on-going between SQA and GPhC to ascertain how the data will be collected.

QST members expressed concerns as to the purpose of the data collection pilot and the collection of individual data rather than aggregated data.

**6. AOB**

Val Findlay asked if any centres were planning to deliver the new SVQ in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 6 for pharmacy support workers. Edinburgh College advised that they plan to deliver the new SVQ in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 6 for pharmacy support workers from January 2022 and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde advised that they plan to be in a position to deliver from February 2022 onwards.

Carol Neilson highlighted the excellent working relationships between all delivering centres.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the QST would take place in April/May 2022. An online poll will be distributed to QST members to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting.

**Action**

* Laura Gibson to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting.

**Action grid**

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| **Action** | **Date completed** |
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