xHN/VQ SLWG Assessment Options

Key points

- In current context there is variable access to staff, candidates, resources, opportunities for assessment and generating assessment evidence: this will continue to change.
- We want to show sensitivity in very challenging circumstances for centres, candidates and staff while maintaining standards and credibility
- Assessment approaches and strategies vary across vocational qualifications and so solutions may vary too
- Key stakeholders such as HE and SSCs vital to success of any proposed solutions

Outline proposal – based loosely on Ofqual approach, SQA/centres work through the following options:

1 Centres proceed with assessment as normal if they can without adversely affecting validity and reliability (this includes proctoring)

2. Centres re-schedule assessments to better fit the timeline/circumstances

3. If re-schedule not an option within desired timeline, explore if/how assessments and assessment conditions might be adapted

4. If adaptation not possible, SQA could cease to make assessments/certification available

5. If all mandatory units in HN framework have been completed but GU not complete could award a "C" grade and use appeals process after certification

6. If mandatory units are not completed, we can't offer certification, as "minimum viable product" standard not met

Actions/Points to consider	Further info
1. Centres proceed with assessment as normal	By, for example, moving to remote assessment. A point raised on this was the need to ensure that centres maintain confidentiality of assessments taken from SQA's secure site by emphasising to centres that any virtual environments they propose to use would be secure.
2. Centres re-schedule assessments to better fit the timelines of circs	
3. If re-schedule is not an option within desired timeline, SQA to explore if/how assessment can be adapted to suit circs	Maintaining standards and integrity of certification and QM working with relevant agencies (SSCs, regulator, and SEV as approp) **Process needed for QM sign off** [redacted] and [redacted] are compiling a spreadsheet with assessment strategies for GUs across HNs and feedback from centres about proposed alternative assessment strategies which will be shared with QMs later this week. Consideration needs to be given to how this work will be prioritised e.g. high uptake, centre enquiries, SEV proposals
4. If adaptations not possible	SQA could cease to make assessment / certification available (e.g. paper based QP processes for dental and licensed trades, and no unannounced QA for licensed trades and taxi quals) Attenders at the meeting were supportive of Accreditation Unit's view that evidence to meet assessment is required for certification therefore it's unlikely that adaptation to assessment strategies will be possible.

	Reference was also made to current arrangements for SSCs and standard setting which may cause delays in any requests for adaptations to assessment requirements.
5. If all mandatory units in HN framework have been completed but GU not yet complete	Award 'C' grade and allow access to appeals process after certification
6. If mandatory units have not been completed, SQA unable to certificate as MVP requirements have not been met	
Communication	Need lines to send to sector to reassure – anything issued must go through Comms. Lesley and Denise to confer On-going log of queries from sector is being maintained- could be scanned for intelligence to inform comms
	Be ideal if high level comms goes out to centres asap to allow time for the above processes to progress
	Once process is underway, QMs will be able to respond to incoming enquiries, including enquiries currently outstanding
College Quality Management Group meeting on 26 March	Discuss draft options above and collect views
Further meetings of SLWG on Friday 27th March	[redacted] has created a space in MTeams (for which thanks [redacted])