



Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024–25

Mental Health and Wellbeing Awards

Verification group number: 707

General comments

The Mental Health and Wellbeing award at level 6 is in its second year, with some centres delivering the award for the first time. This year evidence was provided for verification by 29 centres. This included schools, colleges, and private training organisations, and was across levels 4, 5 and 6.

Most centres are fully aware of the national standard and the minimum evidence requirements for different levels. They are ensuring that candidates have the opportunity to meet the minimum evidence requirements for the level being delivered.

Overall, an excellent mixture of evidence was supplied, allowing candidates to take ownership of their awards. There was clear evidence that most centres were using effective internal verification to support the delivery and assessment of the awards.

Course arrangements, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All centres adhered to the unit specifications, and this was evident in the candidate evidence produced. Most centres used the Assessment Support Packs as part of the assessment process.

Across all levels centres used an appropriate instrument of assessment. It is important that, if centres use an adapted assessment instrument, they submit it for prior verification.

This academic year, we were able to choose materials for exemplification from a number of centres, across all levels. The materials will be available in the upcoming understanding standards events. These are available for booking via the SQA website.

Evidence requirements

Most centres were aware of the evidence requirements for these awards — most had adhered to the minimum evidence requirements or had used the Assessment Support materials produced by SQA. Two centres had slightly adapted the assessment material provided by SQA, and this had led to candidates not being able to meet the minimum evidence requirements.

We would strongly advise, that if centres adapt assessment materials, in any way, they send in the assessments for prior verification.

Administration of assessments

It was apparent that most centres had used the Assessment Support pack, allowing the evidence to be gathered over time, using naturally-occurring evidence. This award lends itself to being assessed holistically, by generating evidence in any format throughout to meet the minimum evidence required. The assessment provided can be used as a tool to ensure that candidates have met the minimum evidence requirements.

Centres presented candidate work in a variety of formats, which clearly met the evidence requirements. This included PowerPoints, personal stories, written work, posters, and floor books, allowing the candidates choice in how they wished to produce their evidence.

Most centres had provided supportive and productive feedback, supporting candidates throughout the awards. Feedback to candidates was evident in some areas, but not across all centres.

Learning and teaching

Although at the verification event we do not normally receive learning and teaching materials, it was clear from the evidence supplied that candidates had access to good learning and teaching resources. All information supplied was current. Centres often share these materials, and there is a lot of excellent materials on the Mental Health U-share webpage in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Homepage of the SQA site.

Overall assessment

Most centres had used the Assessment Support Pack effectively, allowing the candidates to meet the minimum evidence requirements. Some centres had failed candidates if they hadn't answered a question on the second attempt. This award allows for candidates to keep producing evidence to allow them to meet the minimum evidence requirements

Verification

Most centres had provided evidence of internal verification and standardisation. It is good practice to internally verify assessments to ensure that they allow the candidates to meet the minimum evidence requirements. Regular standardisation meetings are especially important if a large teaching team is involved in the delivery of the awards.

Areas of good practice reported during session 2024–25

Many areas of good practice were shown by the evidence supplied by centres.

One centre allowed the candidates to discuss and use their own mental health status to complete the award.

Evidence was supplied in various formats, including, Personal Stories, PowerPoints, Posters Floor book, and written work.

Most centres provided robust internal verification and detailed and thorough feedback to candidates throughout.

Some centres had created their own workbooks as another way of gathering evidence.

Some centres allow candidates to complete work on Google Classroom, with the option to choose between digital and physical formats.

Supports and barriers to support — one centre had devised an interview for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding and make links with their centre and personal experience.

One centre made good use of a cross-subject holistic approach, linking Higher Human Biology brain structure test to Understanding Brain Health for level 6.

Specific areas for improvement reported during session 2024–25

Overall, the evidence generated was to a very high standard, using different formats.

There are areas to be considered when delivering the award:

- ◆ Centres should provide appropriate candidate feedback.
- ◆ Centres should have evidence of internal verification and assessor feedback.
- ◆ Centres should assess candidates to the appropriate level, being aware of over-assessing, and providing appropriate marking guides.
- ◆ It is good practice to use naturally-occurring evidence, over time, to generate the minimum evidence requirements for the award.
- ◆ Centre-devised assessments should be submitted for prior verification.
- ◆ Candidates should be allowed to gather evidence as often as needed to meet the minimum evidence requirements, and not to be processed as a fail.