



**Scottish Vocational Qualifications**  
**Qualification Verification Summary Report 2021**  
**Childcare**

Verification group number: 84

## Introduction

GH5V 22 Social Services Children and Young People at SCQF level 6  
GH5W 23 Social Services Children and Young People at SCQF level 7  
GH5X 24 Social Services Children and Young People at SCQF level 9

## Category 2: Resources

### **Criterion 2.1: Assessors and internal verifiers must be competent to assess and internally verify, in line with the requirements of the qualification.**

Assessors and verifiers in almost all centres comply with this criterion relating to qualifications for occupational competence. All assessors and verifiers have or are undertaking assessor/verifier qualifications.

CPD for assessors and verifiers at almost all centres is robust and, where possible, some have managed to continue with CPD activities during the pandemic.

### **Criterion 2.4: There must be evidence of initial and ongoing reviews of assessment environments; equipment; and reference, learning and assessment materials.**

Assessment environments were severely affected by COVID-19. Some early years assessment environments had to close, and some were able to continue a reduced service. Residential childcare and secure accommodation were also severely disrupted, and this had an impact on assessors being able to gain access to these environments for observing candidates.

To support the centres, adaptations had to be made to allow assessments to continue. Observation made more use of digital technology, and face-to-face meetings were conducted via digital platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Greater use of expert witness testimony was also encouraged, and this has led to a discussion regarding the different roles of assessors (peripatetic and work-based).

Reviews of policies and procedures, in almost all centres, are carried out regularly, and are version controlled using footer systems in almost all centres.

Teaching and referencing material and equipment is relevant and up to date in almost all centres.

## Category 3: Candidate support

### **Criterion 3.2: Candidates' development needs and prior achievements (where appropriate) must be matched against the requirements of the award.**

With COVID-19 affecting delivery in almost all centres, candidates' development needs were highlighted more. A change from diagnosed conditions to more social issues, such as poverty and social issues, became apparent as candidates, assessors, and verifiers moved to digital platforms.

Many centres were able to provide the candidates with laptops and other specific support.

There were also issues of isolation for all those involved in delivery, and cognisance had to be taken of this.

Almost all centres use RPL where it is relevant to the awards being delivered if the evidence is suitable.

**Criterion 3.3: Candidates must have scheduled contact with their assessor to review their progress and to revise their assessment plans accordingly.**

Almost all centres have systems in place to show scheduled contact between assessors and candidates. Email, text messaging, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and web ex were used, and these interactions on digital platforms kept candidates in contact with their assessor — which turned out to be more regular than had been the case before COVID-19.

Centres who assess using e-portfolio systems include detailed diaries of contact within these systems. This includes assessment planning, reviewing assessment plans, feedback and planning for observation.

## **Category 4: Internal assessment and verification**

**Criterion 4.2: Internal assessment and verification procedures must be implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.**

Almost all centres have internal assessment and verification policies and procedures. EVs sampled aspects of these documents, through written records from assessors and verifiers within centres. Almost all centres are using the SQA-preferred three-stage model of verification of Pre-Delivery, During Delivery and Post Delivery. This session these documents were made available, before verification visits, in the SQA Evidence Hub.

All centres have standardisation meetings. Decisions are being made on how centres are agreeing what candidates must do to show competence and how COVID affected this.

It was very impressive, in terms of commitment and support to candidates, that centres managed to continue despite the challenges caused by COVID-19. It was noted in EV reports how much the centre co-ordinators and lead verifiers supported the assessors and candidates undertaking the qualifications.

**Criterion 4.3: Assessment instruments and methods and their selection and use must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair.**

All centres demonstrated that they were working to the VARCS principals of assessment, and this was identified in verification records of the assessors' implementation of assessment methods. Centres also worked hard to ensure that the assessment strategy was adhered to, allowing for the new guidance from SSSC/SQA to be implemented as a result of the pandemic.

**Criterion 4.4: Assessment evidence must be the candidate's own work, generated under SQA's required conditions.**

All centres ensured they worked to meet SQA requirements for authentication of candidates' work by having procedures in place on malpractice and plagiarism.

Candidates at almost all centres sign a declaration stating that the evidence within portfolios is their own. This is carried out for both paper and e-portfolio systems.

Assessors are also using direct methods of assessment (observation/expert witness), which confirms work is the candidate's own.

**Criterion 4.6: Evidence of candidates' work must be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements.**

EV reports shows that almost all centres' assessors and verifiers are making accurate and consistent judgements and decisions against the standards being assessed.

Internal verification records at almost all centres confirms this by using VARCS as part of the verification sampling process and decisions made at standardisation meetings.

**Criterion 4.7: Candidate evidence must be retained in line with SQA requirements.**

Because of COVID-19, SQA sent out a direction to all centres detailing that all evidence was to be retained for longer than the usual timescales. It is clear that all centres who were verified this session complied with SQA directive.

**Criterion 4.9: Feedback from qualification verifiers must be disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice.**

Evidence from EV reports reviewed showed that centres disseminate these reports to assessors and verifiers for the teams to discuss. A few centres send reports to directors or chief executives to inform them of candidates' achievements. One centre used the EV report as an evaluation for funding from Scottish Government.

## **Areas of good practice reported by qualification verifiers**

The following good practice was reported during session 2020–21:

- ◆ The ability to adapt to a pandemic was incredible.
- ◆ Collaboration between other organisations was increased and it gave each of us a better insight into each other's roles and responsibilities.

## **Specific areas for development**

The following area for development was reported during session 2020–21:

- ◆ Observation had to change due to the pandemic, and this has given us the opportunity to explore this assessment method in more detail.
- ◆ The language in some SVQ units is out of date and no longer suitable. We have started a thorough scrutiny of these units to check what units are affected.