

Inspection of Midlothian Council Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre

Report by Alison White, Head of Adult Services

1 Purpose of Report

This report provides information about the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Inspections of Midlothian Council's Approved Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre in 2018

2 Background

- 2.1 The Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre was Approved by SQA in January 2017. From 2004-2014 there was a Joint SVQ Assessment Centre with Scottish Borders Council (who made alternative arrangements in 2014). From 2014-2017 Midlothian Council SVQ Assessment Team had a partnership arrangement with VQ Insight for the registration of candidates while preparing all the documentation for approval as a Centre. Since January 2017 a SVQ Management Board has governance of the Centre with representation from Managers in Health & Social Care, Children & Families, Education, Community Justice and Business Support Services.
- 2.2 The Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre has responsibility to ensure it provides SVQs to the workforce required by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) to be registered. This covers Adult & Social Care (350), Children & Families (85) and parts of Early Years Education (currently 140) with annual changes in workforce. These services are inspected by the Care Inspector and the qualifications/training of staff form part of these inspections.
- 2.2 During the first 12-18 months of a SQA Approved SVQ Assessment Centre there are inspections of all the qualification Programmes for which the SVQ Assessment Centre is approved to deliver, plus an inspection of all the Centre's systems
- 2.3 The SQA inspections are known as External Verification visits. In addition to inspecting all teaching and assessment materials the Inspector views all the SVQ Assessors Continuous Professional Development files to ensure that they are up-dating their own knowledge. The Centre is required also to arrange for the Inspector to interview Programme candidates and SVQ Assessors – these are selected randomly by the Inspector. The Centre is usually provided with 6 weeks' notice of Inspection visits.

- 2.4 The SQA Inspections report on: Resources; Candidate Support and Internal Assessment & Verification. Each of the 3 areas have between 2 and 6 sub-categories of compliance criteria to be met. The Inspector reports on compliance using a green, amber or red system of rating outcomes.
- 2.5 The Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre delivers SVQ qualifications Programmes for staff members requiring SSSC registration in Health & Social Care, Children & Families and Education within Midlothian Council.
- 2.6 The SVQ Assessment Centre also delivering the Core Skills required by candidates registered for Modern Apprenticeships within Health & Social Care, Children & Families and Education. Additionally, the SVQ Assessment Centre is in partnership with NHS Lothian to deliver SVQs for young Modern Apprenticeships as part of the developing the Young Workforce.

3 SQA Inspections – External Verification visits January-June 2018

The Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre has been inspected on two occasions in March and June 2018.

Firstly, on March 22nd 2018 all SVQ Programmes relating to care work for Adult & Social Care Services were inspected. These were:

- SVQ Social Services & Healthcare SCQF Level 6
- SVQ Social Services & Healthcare SCQF Level 7
- SVQ Social Services & Healthcare SCQF Level 9/10

Secondly, on June 19th all SVQ Programmes relating to care work for Children & Families Services were inspected. These were:

- SVQ Social Services Children & Young People SCQF Level 6
- SVQ Social Services Children & Young People SCQF Level 7
- SVQ Social Services Children & Young People SCQF Level 9/10

For both Inspection visits the SVQ Assessment Centre received ALL GREEN for all compliance criteria for all areas in each of the qualifications delivered.

3 Report Implications

The SQA Inspections confirm, with confidence, the high standards being achieved by the SVQ Assessment Centre in the delivery of care qualifications to Midlothian Council staff members. The Inspectors who undertook the SQA EV visits both commented positively on the reports from candidates (staff members undertaking qualifications) made about the support they received from their SVQ Assessors.

4.1 Resource

The SVQ Assessment Centre is managed through the Practice Learning & Development Team within Health & Social Care. The Staffing is: 1 SVQ Coordinator and 4 SVQ Assessors. Administrative support is provided through Business Support Services

4.2 Risk

During the first 18 months of the Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre – as part of the Practice Learning & Development team – the Centre has managed to be effective with positive support from Business Support Services (BSS) While there have been challenges working with the centralised BSS compared to a dedicated resource these have been managed.

The success of the first 18 months of operation have presented new demands and opportunities through partnerships in relation to Modern Apprenticeship (MAs - NHS Lothian) and Early Years, Education MAs too. These new opportunities and demands present challenges in terms of support capacity, and therefore risks

The management of the risks is being addressed by:

- Evaluation options
- Financial planning

Consultation

Copies of the Inspection reports have been made available to all members of the SVQ Management Board

Equalities

There are no apparent equalities issues.

Sustainability

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) require most of the Health and Social Care workforce to be registered. In order to be registered staff members require specific qualifications – usually Scottish Vocational Qualifications – for their posts. As the SSSC increase the requirements for registration to more staff groups there is increased demand on the SVQ Assessment Centre to deliver qualifications. The requirement for Modern Apprenticeships to complete SVQs is a further demand on the Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre. See 4.2 re: management of risk

5 Technology issues

There are no Technology issues arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

The Cabinet is asked to:

- Recognise the positive SQA Inspection reports on the work achieved by the Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre in delivering high quality qualifications to Midlothian Council staff
- Recognise the hard work of the Health & Social Care SVQ Assessment Centre, in particular Carol McKay, SVQ Coordinator

September 3rd 2018

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