
Report To:	Health & Social Care Committee	Date:	22 August 2019
Report By:	Louise Long Corporate Director, (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)	Report No:	SW/34/2019/HW
Contact Officer:	Helen Watson Head of Strategy & Support Service	Contact No:	01475 715285
Subject:	HSCP SVQ CENTRE EXTERNAL VERIFICATION		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This purpose of this report is to inform the Health and Social Care Committee of the findings from the external verification visit to the Inverclyde HSCP SVQ Centre on 27th May 2019.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The external verification visit from the Scottish Qualifications Authority is a quality assurance check to ensure that assessment and verification are completed consistently at the appropriate Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework Levels.
- 2.2 Inverclyde HSCP SVQ Centre currently assesses and verifies SVQ Social Services and Healthcare SCQF Levels 6 and 7.
- 2.3 The verification visit drew on evidence from various sources including candidate achievement and feedback, examination of portfolios and centre documents, and discussion with staff. Staff competence, resources for SVQ candidates and current assessment instruments were all checked.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the excellent verification visit from the SQA and that there were no compulsory actions identified.

**Louise Long
Corporate Director (Chief Officer)
Inverclyde HSCP**

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Inverclyde HSCP SVQ Centre was approved by the SQA on 23.9.09.

On 14.2.14 the Centre was accredited to offer:

- SVQ 2 Social Services and Healthcare (SCQF Level 6)
- SVQ 3 Social Services and Healthcare (SCQF Level 7)

Quality Assurance processes were built into the operations of the Centre. These processes are underpinned by the standards set in the SQA's Quality Assurance Criteria for:

- Management of a Centre
- Resources
- Candidate support
- Internal assessment and verification
- External assessment
- Record/ data management.

4.2 This is the ninth year of the Centre's operations.

4.3 The Centre has two permanent, part-time assessor/verifiers, and two temporary, part-time assessor /verifiers. The Learning and Development Officer maintains a limited role in assessing and verifying. Since its inception, the SVQ centre has supported 420 people and is broken down by:

- Level 2 SVQ (Adults) – 319
- Level 3 SVQ (Adults) – 48
- Level 3 SVQ (Children) – 7
- External Agencies 2016-2019 – 46

4.4 The Centre continues to be effectively equipped and learning resources are reviewed within standardisation meetings. The Training Section library is available for candidates to use.

4.5 The Centre also assesses candidates from external providers, thus attracting income and serving the local community.

4.6 The Centre has consistently received the highest ratings in all categories from the SQA external verification process.

5.0 EXTERNAL VERIFIER VISIT

5.1 The external verification report showed that the centre operates to a high compliance level in all areas. The SQA uses a system of colours to indicate the compliance level, with green being the highest level. Inverclyde HSCP SVQ centre received green ratings in all categories. The external verifier also commented on good practice, praising the online resources held on the electronic system for candidates.

5.2 The external verifier interviewed an SVQ candidate and commented that the level of assessor support provided to this candidate was very high. Discussion took place with the assessor/verifier team about various aspects of assessment and constructive feedback and reassurance was provided by the verifier. In summary, the verifier confirmed that assessors are well qualified to make assessment decisions and to interpret the National Occupational Standards appropriately for their candidates.

6.0 FINDINGS

6.1 One recommendation was made on the external verification report for guidance only. The recommendation was that a minor modification to a quality assurance document was suggested.

This will be actioned by the SVQ coordinator and discussed at standardisation with the team. The modification involves adding the “VARCS” principles to the internal verification feedback form. This relates to ensuring that assessments are:
Valid, Authentic, Reliable, Current and Sufficient.

- 6.2 The team also discussed future development with the external verifier. This has resulted in a developmental visit being planned to receive guidance when applying for SQA approval and authorisation to provide additional awards. Additional awards sought may include SVQ Social Services and Healthcare SCQF Level 9 / SVQ Care Services Leadership and Management SCQF Level 10, Professional Development Award in Health and Social Care Supervision SCQF Level 7 and SVQ Children and Young People SCQF Level 7.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

FINANCE

7.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

LEGAL

- 7.2 There are no legal issues within this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.3 There are no human resources issues within this report.

EQUALITIES

- 7.4 There are no equality issues within this report.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
√	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 EV Report