

SCQF UPDATE 16

Autumn/Winter 2011

10 years of
recognising
achievement

scqf

scottish credit and
qualifications framework



A MESSAGE FROM THE SCQF PARTNERSHIP CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AILEEN PONTON

A very warm welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2011 edition of Update. We received a tremendous range of contributions for this edition and I hope that they really do showcase the great diversity that there is to the SCQF.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that our new and enhanced SCQF database is now live and can be accessed from the website at www.scqf.org.uk. The Executive Team has worked closely with NSDesign to develop a database that is user friendly for Credit Rating bodies to enter data and easy for learners and employers to search for information on credit rated provision. A system of subject classification has been incorporated to help increase the efficiency of the search facility and a short description of as many learning programmes as possible has been incorporated which will be mandatory for those uploading future programmes. Users will be able to search by level, title, subject classification, and by owner/Credit Rating Body. You may be interested to know that at the time of going to press there were over 400 learning programmes in the database other than mainstream qualifications.

Some examples of the kinds of organisations which are having programmes credit rated is picked up in the article from Napier University which highlights the very different types of programme submitted by the Richmond Fellowship and the Registers of Scotland.

In the last Update we mentioned the employer engagement activity we had been involved in with both Skills Development Scotland and Alliance of Sectors Skills Councils. In this edition you will find information on the outputs of this including our new suite of video clips.

Finally, a reminder that we are mid-way through the work to review the Level Descriptors. Focus Groups were held in September and we will be consulting on any proposed changes over the winter.

I really do hope that you enjoy the articles and even draw some inspiration from them. It might lead to you lifting the phones to us to tell us about a great case study you have!

The screenshot shows the SCQF website homepage. At the top left is the SCQF logo with a '10 years of recognising achievement' badge. To the right is a search bar with 'GO' and 'AAA' text. Below the logo is a large image of a family in a kitchen. A vertical menu on the right lists 'SCQF for' categories: LEARNERS, PARENTS & CARERS; EMPLOYERS; EDUCATION PROVIDERS & ADVISERS; and CREDIT RATING BODIES. Further right is a 'LATEST NEWS' section with three news items. At the bottom, there are four navigation boxes: 'ABOUT SCQF PARTNERSHIP', 'THE FRAMEWORK', 'SEARCH THE DATABASE', and 'QUICK LINKS' with three links: 'Europe and International', 'Recognition of Prior Learning', and 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SCQF

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the SCQF recognising achievement. During 2011-12, we will provide a 10 year review on each section of our website, starting with Learners, Parents and Carers. This will provide a snapshot of major achievements, new initiatives and developments which have taken place since the Framework was launched in 2001 and which we feel have added real value. The first of our 10 years on sections is now available on the SCQF website and documents the last decade of communicating with both parents and learners, and recognising achievement.

SCQF DATABASE GOES LIVE

The SCQF Partnership recently relaunched its database with a new look and feel to it. It is more user-friendly and will better meet the needs of Credit Rating Bodies, learners and employers. The aim was to have a database that would be straightforward to use and which would have a clean, sharp look that would be immediately appealing. Aileen Ponton, Chief Executive of the SCQFP says:

“It was time to review the previous version of the database to see whether we could improve on the design and make it more user-friendly. We think we’ve done that and hopefully users will reap the benefits.”

The database was designed by NSDesign who worked closely with Frances Thom, SCQF Project Officer, to ensure that our requirements were met. Frances is very pleased with the end result:

“At the last count in the early summer, there were over 400 learning programmes from more than 100 organisations that had been credit rated and had been put onto the database. Since the launch, we have already seen this number rise as Credit Rating Bodies rush to upload programmes.”

The database can be accessed through the home page of the SCQF website (www.scqf.org.uk) and guidance is available to Credit Rating Bodies who wish to upload learning programmes.

For more information or if you have any comments on the revised database contact Paula Cleary, Development Officer p.cleary@scqf.org.uk T: 0141 225 2924



MY WORLD OF WORK

Skills Development Scotland has launched its new online web service My World of Work.

My World of Work aims to help people plan, build and direct their career throughout their working lives. Providing information on skills, learning and employment, it supports the Scottish Government's ambitions for the improved delivery of an all age, universal careers service.

Customers can see jobs in action, build their CVs, search for vacancies and explore training opportunities in a way that's personal to them. There is a wide range of video clips of people talking about their job roles and a significant magazine element with exciting, current content that is relevant to the world of work.

My World of Work will complement SDS's current face-to-face and telephone services, as well as those provided by partners, so that customers have access to a range of channels depending on the level of support they need.

www.myworldofwork.co.uk

CASE STUDIES ON CAMERA

The SCQF Executive team in partnership with Skills Development Scotland has now completed a series of 7 video clip case studies which showcase a range of joint projects which have taken place over the last year. Many of the projects were with employers in the Government Economic Strategy key sectors and highlight a range of ways in which the SCQF can support employers including improving workforce development and effective recruitment.

The majority of the case studies are of larger employers such as Microsoft and Apex Hotels but there are also case studies which highlight work being undertaken by the Scottish Youth Theatre and individuals who have progressed within their learning with the support of their employer.

Julie Cavanagh, Manager at the SCQF Partnership said *"We are very pleased to have completed a number of projects in partnership with SDS and these video clips show-case some of these projects. They also importantly, highlight the versatility of the Framework and the many ways in which it can be used to support employers"* Many of the clips can be found in the employer section of the SCQF website www.scqf.org.uk

The SCQF Partnership has now embarked on filming a further 7 case studies many of which will highlight the projects they have been undertaking with organisations that work with young people. The aim of this work is to encourage more learning provision which recognises the achievements of young people including those in the More Choices More Chances group, to be recognised on the Framework.

Programmes such as Outward Bound's Adventure and Challenge Award and Rathbone's One Life programme now carry an SCQF level and credit points and this can be a huge boost to a young person's confidence when they see that the programme they have undertaken sits alongside other mainstream qualifications. It can also be helpful for mainstream pupils in schools in terms of supporting Curriculum for Excellence and wider achievement. The SCQF Partnership intends to continue this work and encourage more programmes of this nature to be recognised on the Framework.



SCQF SOCIAL

Just a reminder that the SCQF Partnership is on Facebook and Twitter. 'Like' or 'follow' us to keep up to date with news, new publications and developments. Get involved!



[www.facebook.com/
pages/SCQF-
Partnership/
197972066912070](http://www.facebook.com/pages/SCQF-Partnership/197972066912070)



[@SCQFPartnership](https://twitter.com/SCQFPartnership)

REVIEW OF THE SCQF LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

In the last Update (Update 15) Margaret Cameron described plans for the SCQF Partnership's review of the Level Descriptors. The review began in April 2011 and is due to be completed in June 2012. The Level Descriptors are used to make judgements about the SCQF Level that should be allocated to a qualification or learning programme through the process known as credit rating. The SCQF Partnership wants to ensure that the Level Descriptors remain fit for purpose and has contracted consultants to carry out this work consulting widely with stakeholders through interviews, an electronic survey and focus groups to collate feedback.

To date, between 20 and 25 interviews have been conducted with key stakeholders and the SCQF Partnership invited individuals to participate in an electronic survey to register their views on the Level Descriptors. The response was excellent and the feedback enabled the consultants to prepare for a number of focus groups that have taken place with representatives of Higher Education Institutions, Colleges, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and other bodies.

It was never envisaged that a wholesale revision of the Level Descriptors would be needed and this is proving to be the case. Feedback suggests that the majority of people are happy with the Level Descriptors as they are and do not want to see major changes. That is very reassuring to the SCQF Partnership and is testimony to the original work that went into devising the Level Descriptors.

However, the consultants have identified small areas of change that might be needed and have piloted some changes with focus groups to get responses. The next step in the review is to collate these comments and consider what (if any) changes need to be made and where.

Watch out for more news in the next edition of Update.



ARTICULATION IN PRACTICE: ABI WAS MADE FOR MEDIA!

Abi Paola Riva is currently undertaking the third year of a BA Media Studies at Aberdeen Business School in Robert Gordon University.

During her fourth year at High School, Abi decided that she would go to college after completing six years at school. When selecting a course at Aberdeen College, she was torn between Journalism and Creative Industries: Television. After much deliberation, she chose the HND Creative Industries because of the placement opportunity during the second year of study.

Due to articulation agreements in place between Aberdeen College and the Robert Gordon University, Abi was able to use SCQF credit transfer for her HND to articulate straight into year three at university. She says, *"I think that the Uni-link programme*

is really good because you experience two different environments; College and University. I felt that College was a relaxing environment and really prepared me for University level study. Aberdeen College examinations consisted of continuous assessment but at University there is more emphasis on self-study and you have exams at the end of the first and second semesters. At University you have more independence and it's up to the student to hand in coursework and be prepared for exams."

When recruiting, many companies, and the media industry in particular, require hands on experience. Abi continues, *"I think that the course at Aberdeen College was great in preparing me for the media industry, because there was a good balance between practical and theory work in the course. I really think it should be 50/50. I enjoyed the teaching and study method as I think it prepared me for University and made the transition easier. College also provides students with an introduction to making films as well as the opportunity to make films. Just great! At Robert Gordon University lecturers are helpful and easy to contact. Whenever I email lecturers they are great at getting back to me quickly. I'm enjoying learning new skills such as using Flash on Mac computers and working in teams for projects. At University I often film events which are run by the Business Society. I have definitely enjoyed studying in the two different institutes. College is a stepping stone to University and University prepares you for working life."*

Students also have the opportunity to progress onto Postgraduate courses, so Abi intends to stay at Robert Gordon University for fourth year and then take up a Postgraduate course in teaching to broaden her job options. Abi has the following advice for other students: *"Speak to your guidance tutor, find out what your options are and explore which Universities have a link with your College. Have fun at College and, when it comes to University, get your head down and study!"*



RICHMOND FELLOWSHIP AWARDS EVENT

Edinburgh Napier University recently had the pleasure of hosting a ceremony for The Richmond Fellowship Scotland (TRFS) at the university's Craighouse Campus. The Professional Development Award in Management of Behaviour had been credit rated by the Centre for Credit Rating, working with a Subject Specialist from the Edinburgh Institute. The event was attended by Margaret Mill, Accreditation Manager at the Centre for Credit Rating, who worked closely with the organisation throughout the process and Arthur Morrison, Assistant Dean of the Business School, who welcomed over fifty representatives on the day. In addition there was a guest speaker, Erica Stewart Jones from NHS Health Scotland, who spoke about how the award fits into the wider picture for the Government's Mental Health Improvement Strategy, and congratulated TRFS for an award that is innovative, adds value, and has a strong evidence-base to evaluate its outcomes.

The Richmond Fellowship Scotland is the largest provider of community care in Scotland, supporting individuals with complex and challenging behaviours. The Professional Development Award in Management of Behaviour Support was developed to provide the opportunity to build on managers' qualifications and helps close the gap in practitioner skills in Scotland. By credit rating this programme, Edinburgh Napier's Centre for Credit Rating made the managers' efforts measurable, which in turn can give an evident boost in job satisfaction.

The event was a celebration of the staff's achievements, in particular the 17 managers who finished the programme. There were some moving testimonials about how the managers' effort and dedication paid off and made a real difference to the lives of the people they support.

Austen Smyth CEO of The Richmond Fellowship awarded the certificates and congratulated every manager for their hard work and commitment in completing the course. He commented *"This award is unique in social care in Scotland, and demonstrates the commitment and contribution TRFS makes in the field of challenging behaviour and Positive Behaviour Support."*



SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT'S E-LEARNING PROGRAMME CREDIT RATED

The Scottish Youth Parliament is delighted to have recently launched a new comprehensive training programme, building on many years of participation and training experience gathered since the organisation's launch in 1999. Thanks to a grant from Education Scotland, the programme has been credit rated with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, meaning that MSYPs and other young people will receive recognition for their learning.

The SYP's June Sitting and AGM was the perfect time to launch the new programme, with a new intake of Members, fresh from the largest ever SYP elections, which saw almost 85,000 votes cast across the country. With 150 eager new MSYPs itching to deliver change for their peers, this programme will ensure they develop the skills they'll need to fulfil their potential.

Taking key elements from previous training from within the organisation, the training has been extended to include issues that are relevant to young people in today's society, including safe and effective use of social media. Recognising that MSYPs are based across the country, much of the material is hosted in a purpose-built online e-learning facility accessible through the SYP's website, with supplementary training to be provided through workshops and face-to-face engagement.

Whilst the SYP has designed a programme which will cover the full two-year term of MSYPs, the programme has been created as a collection of different elements, meaning that young people will gain accreditation for each part they complete. The programme also recognises the additional training Conveners and Trustees will complete due to their extra responsibilities and also includes the V3 pupil council training, developed in partnership with Education Scotland. Thanks to this approach, much of the training can be delivered with other young people and, on completion of a portfolio, this can be accredited in the same way.

If you want more information about the SYP's training programmes, are interested in finding out how SYP could help you, or would like to request a copy of the V3 pack, contact Neil Burn, SYP's Participation and Training Manager on 0131 557 0452 or neil.b@syp.org.uk.

SCQF PARTNERSHIP TEAM WORK WITH COLLEGES

Since 2008 the SCQF Partnership Executive team has been working closely with colleges to improve the volume and accuracy of SCQF information in prospectuses. A prospectus review has been carried out annually for the past 4 years, in order to gather information on how the Framework is promoted. The SCQF Partnership has supported colleges through the provision of prepared text to ensure that consistent and accurate information on the SCQF is made available to current and prospective students. Since then, excellent progress has been made and it is hoped that the Framework will continue to be an important inclusion in Scotland's college prospectuses.

EUROPE & INTERNATIONAL NEWS UPDATE ON EUROPEAN COMMISSION FUNDED PROJECTS

PROJECT ONE – WORKING WITH SECTORS AND THE RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

This Project involves identifying up to five key sectors to develop case studies of actual companies who are looking at or have developed strategies for coping with mobility and recognition. The principal focus will be the role of qualification frameworks and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) in particular in the case studies. A secondary focus will be the extent to which these companies validate non-formal and informal learning. The companies will all be based in the UK or be international companies. The project will culminate in an event to share information and case studies, look at best practice and challenges and also to explore opportunities for further collaboration or development.

PROJECT TWO – COMMUNICATION

This project involves identifying further opportunities for explaining the EQF along with other policy initiatives as they evolve during 2011-12. It aims to build on work started in 2010-2011 but with an additional focus of seeking feedback on understanding and use of the EQF and the effectiveness of information shared so far.

PROJECT 3 – EUROPEAN LIAISON

This project will work towards identifying some key countries to explore bilateral discussions on Frameworks and their implementation. Additionally it is hoped that this project can be an enabler to support and contribute in full to all of the NCP related events. The project will look at key countries and themes for exploration and discussion, looking particularly at bilateral meetings, seminars and study visits.

PROJECT 4 – PRODUCTION OF A DIGEST

This project will involve producing a report which will include new chapters on the digest from 2010-11 and a summary of the synergy between the EQF, The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET), along with some reference to the work on RPL.

Look out for further updates in future issues of SCQF Update.



UPDATE ON EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

The SCQF Partnership is working with the Scottish Funding Council, The Alliance of Sector Skills Councils and partners from further and higher education to engage in targeted activity within key employment sectors. The intention is to work with three sectors each year, over the next three years, and to bring together employers, institutions and SCQF resources. The intended outcome is to help unlock demand from learners and employers for use of the SCQF in a number of different ways including credit rating, credit transfer, and the development of pathways and progression routes.

A number of projects were proposed by partners and meetings with individual projects are now underway. We will be working with the Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organisation (OPITO) and Aberdeen College in the Oil and Gas sector, helping them to credit rate their transitional training programme for new entrants to the sector. This course has been designed to encourage redundant employees from RAF Kinloss to use existing skills and experience to enter the Oil & Gas industry. We will also be working with People 1st, the Sector Skills Council for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism, to credit rate the prestigious WorldHost customer service programme.

Look out for further news in subsequent issues of SCQF Update

For more information please contact Ryan Reed: R.Reed@scqf.org.uk

SCQF PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES UPDATE

QUALIFICATIONS CAN CROSS BOUNDARIES

During 2011 the countries of the UK and the Republic of Ireland have been working together to update the leaflet *Qualifications Can Cross Boundaries* – a rough guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland. This updating reflected any new qualifications brought into each Framework over the last two years since the last version. In addition we took the time to include information on the referencing to both the European Qualifications Framework and the FQ-EHEA for Higher Education. The last version was available only online as a PDF as we were keen to include the EQF and the FQ-EHEA information in any hard copy version. You can now access this leaflet on our website but you can also order hard copies by contacting a.ralston@scqf.org.uk

TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOLS

The SCQF Partnership has launched a toolkit for schools, for use by those delivering learning in schools and the broader learning community. Created in partnership with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), the toolkit will assist schools and learning communities in understanding how the Framework supports Curriculum for Excellence and the recognition of achievement for young people. It will also help them to support parents and carers in understanding the SCQF so that they in turn can help young people to choose how they move forward in their learning, understand less familiar qualifications and recognise other areas of learning that may contribute to their personal development and goals for the future.

The toolkit is available on the SCQF website and contains useful presentations and publications that will aid schools and learning communities in understanding and communicating the Framework to learners, parents and carers. SCQF levels are now included on Scottish Qualifications certificates and knowing the level of learning undertaken can help build confidence in learning ability. All learners, including young people, adult and returning learners can be shown how to use the framework to identify the level of learning gained through various experiences. They can also be shown how the SCQF can help with planning their future learning.

SCQF FORUM UPDATE

The twelfth SCQF Partnership Forum meeting was held on 7 September 2011 at the Teacher Building, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow.

The aims of the event were to provide partners with an update on SCQF activities, to provide feedback on the SCQFP Forum event that took place on 9 February and also provide a summary of the feedback and responses to the on-line survey of Forum members which was conducted over July and August. The event also provided members with the opportunity to discuss a number of pertinent issues relating to the future activity of the SCQF Partnership.

Aileen Ponton, CEO of the SCQFP chaired the event and gave an update on some SCQFP activities. She also provided members with more information on the latest survey. This was a small on line research project to get a snapshot of how Forum members are currently engaging with the SCQFP in light of economic and organisational changes. Aileen highlighted a number of key points from the responses. There was a very clear view that Forum members were engaging more with the Framework and many felt they had been more actively involved in embedding the Framework in their sector or organisation. It was encouraging that the majority of respondents believe the Framework is still fit for purpose in these changing economic times.

A Snapshot of Activities followed which included presentations from: Ken Muir of Education Scotland, who set out the role of the new body; Maureen McKenna, from the Association of Directors of Education Scotland who talked about the changing role of Ades, and Steven Greig from Youth Scotland who highlighted the benefits of the Youth Achievement Awards.

After the main presentations delegates attended one of three workshop sessions which were:

- Reviewing the SCQF Level Descriptors
- SCQF Publications – A Guide to Our Guides
- Skills & Qualifications for the Financial Services Sector

Evaluations forms were sent to Forum members after the event and very positive feedback was received.

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS GROUP AWARDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



SQA's National Certificates and National Progression Awards (NPAs) are collectively known as National Qualifications Group Awards (NQGAs). NQGAs are designed at SCQF levels 2–6 and provide progression routes from non-advanced levels into employment and also to Higher National Certificates/Diplomas and other awards. The key objectives of developing these qualifications are to support both national and local economic priorities and to address current and future skills needs in Scotland. Engagement with employers is therefore integral to the development process.

During 2010-2011, the NQGA Project Team has worked with colleges across Scotland, to develop National Certificates and National Progression Awards both as specialist single centre and specialist collaborative awards which involve groups of colleges working in partnership to design the qualifications. In addition to designing new awards, this development programme has allowed the rationalisation of a range of existing college-devised full and part time programmes of study to provide nationally recognised Group Awards, which more accurately reflect candidates' levels of attainment and facilitate progression to further study and into employment.

National Certificates and NPAs have been developed this year across a diverse range of subjects and SCQF levels from Accounting to Activity Tourism, Gamekeeping to Gaelic Songwriting and Mobile Technology to Model Making for Film and TV. Additionally, three new SQA Awards have been developed in Volunteering at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 5, allowing candidates to develop a range of skills through volunteering and to be credited with an Award at the level appropriate to their learning.

The full range of National Qualifications Group Awards available can be found on the SQA website at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/24064.html>. For more information, please contact the NQGA team on 0845 213 5542 or email nqga@sqa.org.uk.



SQA'S CREDIT RATING SERVICE REVIEW

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has been operating a Credit Rating Service since 2005 and has credit rated over 120 qualifications and learning programmes from 54 organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors. SQA continuously strives to improve its processes and the service offered, so felt it was time to review and update the Credit Rating Service.

For those wishing to have their provision credit rated, an initial site visit will be carried out as part of the submission process. This visit ensures that the organisation has the systems and processes in place to meet SQA's credit rating criteria and the SCQF guidelines on which these are based. The visit offers the opportunity for the organisation to receive advice and guidance from an experienced SQA Officer and ensures that any issues are flagged up and resolved where possible, at the very early stages of the process. Including this visit in the process will allow for a shorter turnaround time from the point of submission to the decision being issued from SQA's Credit Rating Decision Group.

In addition to the initial site visit, SQA now offers an annual Quality Assurance (QA) visit for those organisations that do not have the facility or resources available to put in place their own system of external QA. This visit, which is also carried out by an experienced SQA Officer, will ensure that the organisation meets SQA's credit rating criteria and SCQF guideline 20, that the assessment system of the submitting body should be subject to external quality assurance.

For further information or to make a submission for credit rating, contact SQA using the details below.

Contact: Business Development & Customer Support Team
Tel: 0303 333 0330
E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk

or visit www.sqa.org.uk/creditrating

SKILLS FOR LEARNING, SKILLS FOR LIFE AND SKILLS FOR WORK

SQA has developed a new skills framework, Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work (SfLLW) to underpin the new qualifications currently under development to support Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). It has been designed for use in conjunction with SCQF as support for the level/depth of generic skills. This broad framework of skills will provide constructs for those developing, delivering and assessing the new SQA National Courses. The skills framework has been developed to meet the needs of the individuals in all learning contexts and reflects the most important generic skill sets for future generations.

The focus on developing qualifications with a strong skills base is to equip learners in a new way. Learners need these capabilities and qualities for an uncertain world where skills are becoming increasingly more important.

The SfLLW framework is derived from the broad generic skills, attitudes and values in the Scottish Government document, Building the Curriculum 4 (2009). The framework has identified five skill areas and associated sub-skills. These will be used by qualification development teams to ensure that these broad transferable skills are developed as an integral part of National Qualifications and other qualifications that support CfE.

The five skills areas are:

- 1 Literacy** - This is the ability to communicate by reading, by writing, and by listening and talking.
- 2 Numeracy** - This is the ability to use numbers to solve problems by counting, doing calculations, measuring, and understanding graphs and charts. This is also the ability to understand the results.
- 3 Health and wellbeing** - This is the ability to take care of yourself and others and to be responsible for your learning and welfare. It includes managing your feelings, developing a positive and active attitude to life and building relationships with others.
- 4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship** - This is the ability to develop skills, understandings and personal attributes — including a positive attitude to work, to others and to the world's resources.
- 5 Thinking skills** - This is the ability to develop the cognitive skills of remembering and identifying, understanding, applying, analysing, evaluating and creating.

The level of the skills will be guided by the SCQF level of the Course or Unit and are normally expected to be at the same SCQF level. The SfLLW framework itself has no indicative levels or depth attached to the skills – SQA development teams will use the SCQF as a reference when considering the level/depth of the skills they expect learners to have developed as they progress through the qualification. Each qualification will identify the main skills/ sub-skills expected to be developed and will give guidance on where there are opportunities to do this. SfLLW skills will not be automatically certificated, but if learners want or need specific recognition, discrete Units will be available in most of the skill areas.

As a partner of the SCQF, SQA is keen to promote the shared language used across its qualifications and its direct relevance to this new skills framework. By using the SCQF when thinking about the generic skills, it confers value and encourages a common understanding of levels and coherence across Scotland's learning system.

For more information on the SfLLW framework, go to <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45395.html> or contact Margaret Tierney, Project Manager on 0845 213 5454 or at margaret.tierney@sqa.org.uk

MEET THE EXECUTIVE TEAM – PART 7



PAULA CLEARY
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR CAREER TO DATE

I am a graduate of Glasgow University and then worked there as a postgraduate researcher. I taught Sociology at Jordanhill College to social work and community education students as part of their degree programmes, then joined SCOTVEC in 1992 as an Administrative Officer and was subsequently promoted to Quality Development Manager. I left SQA (SCOTVEC) in 1998 to become a Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning (CRL) at Glasgow Caledonian University. I worked there for almost 10 years, and then joined the West of Scotland Wider Access Forum (West Forum) in 2008 as Senior Programme Coordinator for Adult Learners and Communities.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE WITHIN THE SCQFP?

Development Officer working with Margaret Cameron to support credit rating bodies.

TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELF!

I play the flute, and play duets with a friend who plays violin. No recording contract yet

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR CAREER TO DATE

For the past 12 years I have been working, in various roles, within the outdoor learning and education sector. Although my experience is mainly in the outdoor sector as a practitioner and manager, my formal education is in Law, having graduated from Glasgow University with a first-class honours degree in Scots Law. I am also very interested in the play and community learning and development sectors and sit as a Board Director for a long established voluntary play organisation in Glasgow.

Most recently I was employed as National Development Officer for Outdoor Learning at Learning and Teaching Scotland where I led national developments in outdoor learning within the context of Curriculum for Excellence. In this position I worked closely with other strategic partners to build capacity within the education, community and voluntary sectors to deliver outdoor learning experiences for children and young people in Scotland as part of the 3 – 18 curriculum.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE WITHIN THE SCQFP?

My role within the SCQF Partnership focuses on engaging and supporting employers and others in understanding the benefits of using the SCQF within the context of recruitment and the workplace, and also in regards to having their own learning and development provision credit rated and placed on the Framework. I support them in understanding the process of credit rating and the steps involved.

TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELF!

In my spare time I enjoy all sorts of outdoor sports including mountain biking, scuba diving and white water kayaking.



RYAN REED
PROJECT OFFICER

WE WANT YOUR COMMENTS

Please get in touch to let us know your thoughts on SCQF Update by contacting Adele Ralston at: a.ralston@scqf.org.uk

We would also like to remind you to contact us if you have any interesting features or stories for the next edition of Update. All contributions gratefully received!

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