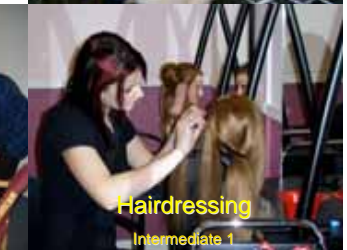


SCOTTISH
QUALIFICATIONS
AUTHORITY

www.sqa.org.uk



Skills for Work Courses – Background

A Curriculum for Excellence:

“More skills-for-work options for young people, robustly assessed and helping them to progress into further qualifications and work.”

Ministerial Response:

“We will deliver a new course and qualification in learning about skills-for-work for 14-16 year olds by 2007.”

A decision was then made to run a pilot programme starting in 2005/2006



Skills for Work Courses – Rationale

A common rationale for this new type of Course was developed. All SfW Courses will:

- ◆ Include experiential learning:
 - learning through practical experience
 - learning through review/reflection
- ◆ Develop employability skills:
 - generic skills and attitudes
 - specific vocational skills/knowledge

A customised rationale for each subject has been developed based on above



Skills for Work Courses – Features

- ◆ Have employability skills, as well as vocational skills, built in
- ◆ Require a variety of learning environments
- ◆ Usually involve partnerships: schools with colleges/employers/training providers
- ◆ Highlight links to National Occupational Standards
- ◆ Give opportunities for Core Skills development



Skills for Work Courses – Design

- ◆ SfW Courses made up of 4 Unit credits, except at Access level (3 Unit credits)
- ◆ Normally 40 hour Units
- ◆ No external assessment - so no grading
- ◆ Course award on successful completion of the Units



Skills for Work Courses – Development

- ◆ SQA Officers working with seconded Development Officers
- ◆ Supported by advice from Qualifications Design Teams — representatives from:
 - Schools and FE
 - Sector Skills Councils/Standard Setting Bodies
 - Employers
 - Scottish Further Education Unit
- ◆ Structure and content developed in line with the agreed rationale



Skills for Work Courses – Pilot Phase 1

- ◆ Phase 1 Courses
 - Financial Services (SCQF 5)
 - Sport and Recreation (SCQF 4)
 - Early Education and Childcare (SCQF 4)
 - Early Education and Childcare (SCQF 5)
 - Construction Crafts (SCQF 4)
- ◆ Phase 1
 - 1400 learners
 - 28 colleges, 145 schools from 21 local authorities
 - Small number of other providers



Skills for Work Courses – Pilot Phase 2

- ◆ Phase 2 Courses
 - Hairdressing (SCQF 4)
 - Rural Skills (SCQF 4)
 - Sport and Recreation (SCQF 5)
 - Construction Crafts (SCQF 5)
 - Practical Experiences: Construction and Engineering (SCQF 3)
- ◆ Phase 2
 - 40 colleges, 255 schools from 32 local authorities
 - Around 4,000 additional learners



Skills for Work Courses – Added Value

Employability skills — what are they?

- ◆ Understanding of the workplace to include:
 - *health & safety, customer care, time-keeping, appearance, following instructions, carrying out quality checks*
- ◆ Self-evaluation skills
- ◆ Confidence to reflect and learn from experience
- ◆ Positive attitude to learning
- ◆ Practical problem-solving



Skills for Work Courses – Employability

Employability skills – meeting the challenge

- ◆ Clearly defined & visible
- ◆ Consciously built in
- ◆ Assessed and progress recorded
- ◆ Different approaches to assessment
- ◆ Links with Curriculum for Excellence



Skills for Work Courses – Evaluation

- ◆ SQA - comprehensive support for centres during the pilot
- ◆ Scottish Executive Education Department - independent evaluation
- ◆ Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education - gathering feedback from centres
- ◆ Case studies being developed
- ◆ Review of Courses, assessments and support materials prior to roll-out in 2007/8



Skills for Work Courses – Candidate Feedback

- ◆ **97.1%** of candidates **enjoyed** their Skills for Work Courses
- ◆ **98.2%** agreed they had learnt about **working with others**
- ◆ **96.1%** acknowledged they had learnt about what happens in the **workplace**
- ◆ **95.3%** learnt to **review** their own work
- ◆ **96.5%** learnt about the skills and attitudes **employers** want



"It has helped my confidence tremendously and made me think that I might like to work with children in the future."



'I am more reliable and my timekeeping has improved – I have never been late for placement'

'I am developing my teamwork skills'

..... I hope to get an apprenticeship when I am older, not sure which trade as I have enjoyed everything I have done so far at college and at MTS.'



'I feel I have more confidence to talk to the staff within my placement'



"This course is great to teach and be part of, so many people are so enthusiastic about the possibilities for the course."

"This group of young women are inspirational and make my job rewarding"

'Students are developing excellent communication skills with children and adults'

"The course has been an invaluable component of the pupil's educational experience, not only in regard to educational qualifications but in relation to the deepening maturity and self confidence of the youngsters"

"Skills for Work has opened a door wide which allows young learners to develop future career skills at a much earlier age ..."

"This is long overdue ... I am all for it"

