



## **Fife & Tayside Wider Access Forum: Transitions**

### **SCQF and Community Learning**

#### **Background**

The SCQF (Scottish Credit Qualification Framework) is a means of bringing together Scottish qualifications into a single framework, which will help employers, learners and practitioners understand what their qualifications and learning means.

By using the framework, centres can allocate credit and level to all assessed and quality assured non-accredited learning programmes, which should encourage the take-up of such programmes and motivate and support learners to progress onto further learning.

The framework can also be used to informally "level" programmes that traditionally would not carry formal accreditation. This means that those learners in some of the most disadvantaged groups in Scotland can have the support and motivation to progress onto further learning.

#### **The project**

The main challenge of this project is to test how the SCQF can be applied to a range of non-traditional learning programmes for adults participating in learning and development in a community setting.

The SCQF can be applied in two distinct ways, either through formal credit rating and levelling by an approved centre, or by using the SCQF level descriptors in an informal way to give an "indication" of level to the learner.

Working closely with the project's partners from Angus College and Dundee University, and based within Angus Council's Community Learning & Development Service, a number of exciting initiatives are currently being developed and implemented:-

- Raising awareness of staff working in adult learning through staff development, to increase understanding and enhance the quality of learning programmes when using the SCQF.
- Piloting the application of the SCQF in a number of community based adult learning programmes. This is "soft levelling" and informal and includes a diverse range of groups such as women's groups, literacy and capacity building groups.

- Regional conference on Learning Outcomes and the SCQF, supporting practitioners to use the SCQF in the development of new programmes and credit rating existing provision.
- Establishing a pilot credit rating panel within Angus College, supporting the development of new processes to credit rate and level non-accredited provision both in the college and community settings.
- Working with partners on the development of a Pre-Access programme to test the application of SCQF levels and credit on new programme design. (Pre-Access in the Communities is a Transitions project funded by the Forum, which provides an opportunity to develop inter-related projects within the Forum as well as with external partners)
- Supporting the voluntary sector to informally level a range of volunteer training programmes as a means of supporting and encouraging progression onto further study.

The SCQF is invaluable as a means of describing the relationships between qualifications, making it clearer for the learner, and helping to identify progression routes within and across all the main education and training areas.

We hope that as a result of this project, there will be an increased understanding of the SCQF for both practitioners and learners working with adults in a community setting; enhancing the quality of new programme development and supporting and motivating the learner to progress onto further learning.

**For more information on the SCQF project contact:  
Fiona Williams, Transitions Project Officer, at [williamsf@angus.gov.uk](mailto:williamsf@angus.gov.uk)**

