

FOREWORD

The Scottish Government response to the National Review of Early Years and Childcare Workforce (2006) specified key actions including developing leadership in the early years and childcare sector by creating a workforce led by professionals qualified at level 9 in the SCQF. At the request of the Scottish Government the Council agreed in January 2008 that awards developed from the benchmark statement The Standard for Childhood Practice should be subject to approval and quality assurance by the SSSC. The Standard for Childhood Practice sets out the requirements that must be met and states that the new programmes must be acceptable to the SSSC as leading to registration as a manager/lead practitioner in early years and childcare services.

The SSSC has, through consultation, developed the Rules and Requirements for Awards Developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice. These Rules and Requirements set out the criteria for the approval of courses for persons who wish to become manager/ lead practitioner in the early years and child care service and the arrangements for the monitoring, review and investigation of such courses.

The Rules form an important part of the SSSC's responsibilities under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. This empowers the SSSC to promote high standards of conduct and practice among social service workers and high standards in their education and training. I am pleased that these Rules have now been approved by the Council and given Ministerial consent.

I am very grateful to everyone who has contributed to the development of these Rules. Those involved have ensured the Rules reflect the SSSC's policy of working collaboratively. They have produced concise and streamlined arrangements so that the SSSC can have confidence in the quality of the courses they approve, the competence of those achieving the awards, and the quality of leadership offered throughout the early years and childcare workforce.



Garry Coutts
Convener
30 June 2008