

Contact Information

Learning Networks

For further information about developments in your area telephone your local Learning Network on:

- Network North 01888 569 200
- Network Tayforth 01241 435 207
- Network South East 0131 650 4660
- Network West 0141 848 1500

Or visit the Learning Network website www.learningnetworks.org.uk

Or for information about social service qualifications in general contact the Scottish Social Services Council:

Scottish Social Services Council
Compass House
11 Riverside Drive
Dundee
DD1 4NY

Lo-call: 0845 60 30 891
Tel: 01382 207 101
Fax: 01382 207 215
Email: enquiries@sssc.uk.com
Web: www.sssc.uk.com

If you would like to request this document in another format or language, please contact the SSSC on 0845 60 30 891.

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An introduction to the Practice Learning qualifications (Social Services) and the Practice Learning qualifications Winter 2007/Spring 2008



The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has developed a major new framework of qualifications for people working in social services and related professions who are supporting learning for practice in the workplace. The Practice Learning Qualifications (Social Services) known as the PLQ (SS) are for social service workers who are currently eligible for registration with the SSSC. The Practice Learning Qualifications known as the PLQ are available for those who are not eligible for registration but are working in social services. The PLQ is also available to service users and carers who are supporting the learning of others.

The new framework of qualifications was developed in collaboration with employers, the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS), the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), universities, colleges and service users and carers.

Who can achieve from the PLQ (SS) and PLQ?

Anyone who supports others to learn in the workplace can undertake the PLQ or PLQ (SS). The qualifications provide a framework within which to extend your expertise in supporting the learning of others. A four staged approach enables people to work towards successful completion of academic credits.

What kind of qualification can I gain?

There are four stages of qualification within the PLQ (SS) and PLQ. Depending on your experience and role within your organisation you will be able to undertake the PLQ (SS) or PLQ at whatever stage is most appropriate for you. These stages are set at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels 7, 9, 10 and 11 to reflect the wide range of roles and responsibilities people have in supporting learning in the workplace.

The framework consists of a set of eight standards with learning outcomes for each SCQF level. The standards cover:

- establishing effective relationships
- facilitating learning
- assessment and accountability
- evaluating learning
- creating an environment for learning
- context of practice
- evidence based practice
- leadership.

How can I do the PLQ (SS) or PLQ?

You will be able to take a number of different routes to the PLQ(SS) and PLQ.

At SCQF levels 7, 9 and 10 they will be available as SQA Professional Development Awards (PDA). There will also be a level 10 programme at Robert Gordon University. Level 11 Masters programmes are currently being developed by a number of universities. For those in more remote areas there will be opportunities to access PLQ (SS) and PLQ through distance and e-learning.

Courses will be delivered through the four regional networks of the Scottish Social Services Learning Network. For further information about developments in your area contact your local Learning Network. Contact information is over the page.

The framework for the PLQ (SS)/PLQ can be downloaded from www.scottishpracticelearning.com