

Mental Health Officer Award Materials Development

Draft guidance notes for bidders

Background

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) was asked by the Scottish Government to guide the development of a replacement for the Mental Health Social Work Award (MHSWA) which is the qualification needed by social workers who also carry out the duties of a Mental Health Officer (MHO)

The new award was needed partly because of the introduction of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 which introduced a new range of duties and requirements for Mental Health Officers. It was also an opportunity to make sure that any new qualification would be of similar content and quality across different parts of the country.

A small group of people with interest in mental health and the new qualification was set up and included representatives from social work, the Mental Welfare Commission, a service user from the Scottish Association for Mental Health and the Scottish Government.

It was agreed that Mental Health Officers need to learn about and be tested on areas such as

- Mental Well Being and Mental Disorder
- The legal powers and duties of a mental health officer
- Working in partnership with other people and organisations
- Assessing and managing need, care and risk.

These areas formed the basis for a set of Standards and Practice competences which underpin the new qualification, to be called the Mental Health Officer Award (MHOA) The Standards can be accessed at

<http://www.sssc.uk.com/NR/rdonlyres/B27C40DF-30A5-41BC-AA8C-8F4B3F7AE082/0/MentalHealthOfficerAwardstandards.pdf>

The MHOA is to be delivered by three partnership groups in the North, East and West. The North and West programmes are already approved by the SSSC and the East programme due to be approved by the end of April.

List of learning materials

As part of the ongoing work the Scottish Government is funding the development of new materials which will cover the following areas:

- Children and young people with mental disorders
- Working with mentally disordered offenders
- Acquired brain injury
- Dual diagnosis
- Learning disability
- Parents with mental disorders and the interface with child protection
- Adult Protection and MHOs
- Assessing capacity
- Risk Assessment and mental disorders
- Development of materials to assist practice assessors.

Standards and competences

The Standards and Practice Competences are central to the teaching, learning and assessment of the MHOA and all materials should be developed within that context. (See link above)

In addition the MHOA is a 60 credit, level 11 Qualification (masters level) within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework and materials should be written to that frame of reference.

General guidance

- Writers should be knowledgeable about the topic most **particularly** as it relates to the role of the Mental Health Officer (MHO).
- Ideally writers will have direct or closely related experience to the role and task of the MHO
- Writers must write to the specification and do so in appropriate, accessible language
- Writers must present materials in such a way as to promote critical thinking and the integration of learning and practice rather than as simply

narratives of knowledge. For example to include **some** illustration through vehicles such as case studies, critical incident analysis, question/answers exercises, precedents in law, vignettes etc.

- Writers must produce materials which will support independent study as well as “taught” learning.
- ‘Quality assurers’ from the MHOA Materials Development group will offer guidance and discuss and agree the content of your work and its development.
- You will be paid on the successful delivery of an agreed draft and final materials, in stages through the life of the commissioned work
- Writers will assign the developed material to the commissioners of the work so that it can be used widely within programmes (where appropriate in terms of creative commons)

PROPOSAL/APPLICATION TO DEVELOP MATERIALS

Can you please submit to Karen McLaughlin by email, a proposal to deliver this learning object by 24 April 2009. If you wish further clarification please contact Karen McLaughlin at Karen.mclaughlin@sssc.uk.com or 07795618353. If you are successful you will be notified by 01 May 2009.

In your proposal can you include the information requested below.

How would you propose to deliver this learning object to meet the specification

- Content (including the use/re-use of existing/available resources & materials, considering any issues in respect of copyright)
- Reference to Standards
- Format
- Structure
- Our preferred date for completion is 19th June. Please indicate if you could meet this date. If not what would be your earliest date for completion.

Please provide a brief CV of your career and experience which includes:

1. Your experience and skills in developing learning materials, including any e-learning resources, if applicable. (It is not required that you have developed e- learning resources)
2. Your specific experience in developing learning resources related to this learning area
3. Your general work and academic experience related to the task.