

Standard for Residential Child Care FAQs

If you would like any further information please contact SSSC Learning and Development Adviser, Pamela Fotheringham at pamela.fotheringham@sssc.uk.com

Background to the development of the Standard for Residential Child Care in Scotland

The National Residential Child Care Initiative (NRCCI) was set up in 2008 to meet the Scottish Government's commitment to review residential child care services and recommend required change. The ambition was to make residential child care the first and best placement of choice for those who needs it serves.

One of the recommendations of NRCCI's Higher Aspirations, Brighter Futures report was:

'Given the increasingly complex needs of children and young people and the professional tasks that require high level academic abilities, the workforce group believes that a minimum level of education at SCQF level 9 for workers, supervisors and managers would best equip them to undertake their work most effectively.'

The Scottish Government asked the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) to develop a benchmark standard for the residential child care workforce and the outcome is the Standard for Residential Child Care in Scotland. Three working groups were set up to develop the Standard, the Children and Young People Representative Group, Strategic Group and Technical Expert Sub-Group. The sector was widely represented on each group.

The Standard specifies what is expected of those seeking registration with the SSSC as a manager, supervisor or worker in a residential child care service in Scotland. It also underpins the development and delivery of the SCQF level 9 qualifications which managers, supervisors and workers will be required to achieve.

Who does the new Standard for Residential Child Care apply to?

- Managers of a residential child care setting
- Supervisors of a residential child care setting
- Residential child care workers
- All new starts in one of the above roles.

Do I have to start my training all over again to meet the new Standard for Residential Child Care?

No. The Standard for Residential Child Care is based on the principle of prior learning and that people obtain recognition for previous studies. So if you already meet the SSSC registration requirement you will not have to undertake the whole award as you have qualifications which you should be able to use to gain Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

If you are new to residential child care and have no previous qualifications you will begin your studies for the Standard through the completion of HNC Social Services or SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF level 7.

You would then go on to complete the degree level qualification.

I already have a qualification at SCQF level 9 do I have to gain the degree level award in residential child care?

Managers, supervisors and workers are required to have a qualification which meets the requirements of the Standard for Residential Child Care. What you will need to do to meet the requirements depends on your current qualifications. The next section explains how your prior learning might be recognised.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL is a key principle that all learning providers must comply with.



Learning providers are universities who will deliver the degree in residential child care and colleges or approved SQA centres who will deliver the professional development award (PDA) residential child care.



There are two kinds of prior learning which could count towards the degree level award:

- learning which has been assessed and credit rated and has achieved relevant qualifications
- learning which has been gained from experience either from work or from life in general, providers will determine how such learning will be assessed.

Learning providers will be required to provide specific details about their programmes including entry requirements.

It is important to note that individual learning providers determine the amount of credit given for prior learning, but to help consistency we have made the following agreements on RPL.

<p>Qualification held</p> <p>BA Social Work(Residential Child Care) by distance learning Robert Gordon University (2001-final cohort 2006)</p> <p>BA (Hons) in Social Work (Residential Child Care) by distance learning Robert Gordon University (2004-final cohort 2016)</p> <p>BA (Hons)Social Work (Residential Child Care) Strathclyde University (2004-final cohort 2010)</p>		<p>Award pathways</p> <p>Anyone holding these qualifications will not need to gain the new RCC degree level qualification.</p>
<p>Social work qualification</p> <p>Teaching award (you must evidence ability to obtain full registration with General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS))</p> <p>Community education degree or equivalent as recognised by Standards Council for Community Learning and Development for Scotland Approval Committee</p> <p>Nursing qualifications (you must evidence ability to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC))</p>		<p>Award pathways</p> <p>Anyone holding these qualifications can gain entry into a Post Graduate Certificate RCC (60 credits) at SCQF level 11.</p> <p>Or they can take one of the following awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDA RCC at SCQF level 9 • degree in RCC at SCQF level 9.

<p>Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Residential Child Care or MSc Advanced Residential Child Care, Strathclyde University plus a practice award meeting SSSC registration requirements for their functional area as of August 2016</p> <p>Check what practice awards meet SSSC registration requirements for a worker, worker with supervisory responsibilities and manager in residential child care as of August 2016 here:</p> <p>www.sssc.uk.com/registration/what-qualifications-do-i-need/find-out-about-qualifications</p>		<p>Award pathways</p> <p>Anyone holding a Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Residential Child Care or MSc Advanced Residential Child Care (Strathclyde University) plus a practice award for their functional area which meets SSSC registration requirements as of August 2016 will not have to achieve the new degree level qualification.</p>
<p>A degree level qualification not in a care/education/health discipline plus a practice award meeting SSSC registration requirements for their functional area as of August 2016</p> <p>Check what practice awards meet SSSC registration requirements for a worker, worker with supervisory responsibilities and manager in residential child care as of August 2016 here:</p> <p>www.sssc.uk.com/registration/what-qualifications-do-i-need/find-out-about-qualifications</p>		<p>Award pathways</p> <p>Anyone holding this combination of qualifications can do a Post Graduate Diploma RCC (120 credits) at SCQF level 11.</p> <p>Or take one of the following awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDA RCC at SCQF level 9 • degree RCC at SCQF level 9.

<p>SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF level 7 or SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 7 and/or HNC Social Services or HNC Childhood Practice</p>		<p>the PDA RCC at level 9 learners must be able to demonstrate appropriate experience of working in a residential child care setting and have gained 120 credits at SCQF levels 7 and 8 or above which are recognised as meeting the requirements for registration with the SSSC for their functional area in residential child care as of August 2016.</p>
		<p>Award pathways</p> <p>Anyone holding these awards will have 120 credits at SCQF level 7.</p> <p>They would go on to complete the degree level qualification. There are two pathways, the degree in RCC at SCQF level 9 or the PDA RCC at SCQF level 9.</p> <p>Degree RCC at SCQF level 9</p> <p>Those wishing to do the degree who do not have the HNC and SVQ would need to meet the learning provider's requirements regarding a suitable amount of experience in a</p>

		<p>residential child care setting.</p> <p>In the degree these learners will achieve 120 credits at SCQF level 8 and 120 credits at SCQF level 9.</p> <p>PDA RCC at SCQF level 9.</p> <p>To access the PDA RCC award learners must be able to demonstrate appropriate experience of working in a residential child care setting and have gained 120 credits at SCQF levels 7 and 8 or above which are recognised as meeting the requirements for registration with the SSSC for their functional area in residential child care as of August 2016.</p>
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The following examples show how your RPL can apply.

1. I am a worker in residential child care and I have a degree in psychology and an SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF level 7.

One of the routes you could take is the Post Graduate Diploma RCC (120 credits) at SCQF level 11.

2. I have a qualification which allows me to practice as a social worker.

You can gain entry into the Post Graduate Certificate RCC (60 credits) at SCQF level 11.

3. I have a teaching qualification.

If you have a teaching qualification and are able to evidence your ability to register with the GTCS one of the routes you could take is the Post Graduate Certificate RCC (60 credits) at SCQF level 11.

4. I have a nursing qualification.

If you have a nursing qualification and are able to evidence your ability to register with the NMC one of the routes you could take is the Post Graduate Certificate RCC (60 credits) at SCQF level 11.

I am registered with another regulatory body. Does the Standard for Residential Child Care in Scotland apply to me?

The SSSC cannot require anyone registered with another regulatory body to take additional qualifications. It may be that you would wish to take the award or elements of it for your own continuing professional development (CPD).

Do I need to achieve the SCQF level 9 award even if I work a few hours per week?

Due to the rules governing registration, staff required to register with the SSSC must meet the requirements whether they are full or part time. So regardless of the number of hours you work you will be required to achieve the level 9 award.

Where can I study this award?

There will be a degree in residential child care at SCQF level 9 and a professional development award (PDA) residential child care at SCQF level 9.

Universities will deliver the degree and colleges or approved SQA Centres can deliver the PDA, which the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has developed. Individual learning providers will determine the structure of the programme they deliver but each programme must meet the requirements of the Standard.

What is work-based learning?

- Work-based learning builds on your existing knowledge and skills.
- New knowledge and skills that you apply in the context of your work setting and role.
- By performing your work role, complemented by other activities such as directed reading, researching and group work you can achieve learning outcomes that can be evidenced and assessed.

There is a requirement to have two distinct and different learning experiences, what does this mean?

If you already meet the requirements for SSSC registration you will have had your practice assessed and observed and this will form one of the learning experiences. You will only need to complete one further learning experience.

If you have a registerable qualification and achieved it in your current place of work you will need to have your second learning experience in either another residential child care setting or in a related setting.

If you achieved your registerable qualification outwith your current place of work, your second learning experience can take place in your current place of work.

Regardless of where your second learning experience takes place it will be assessed by the learning provider but the work produced will require to be authenticated.

The Standard specifies that learning providers can use a range of ways to assess learning including visits to a range of workplace settings, staff exchanges and projects.

There is no specified length of time for the learning experience and individual learning providers will determine it. The length may vary depending on your prior learning experience and will also be influenced by the requirements of the learning provider.

What support will be offered to workers making the transition to studying towards a higher level of qualification?

Existing tools such as personal and team development plans will assist in determining the level of support needed by each participant. Learning and development teams and/or human resources staff can support this type of learning needs analysis.

The SSSC will approve and quality assure programmes. This process will involve making sure learning providers make suitable arrangements to support learners.

How will activities such as reading and research, reflective writing, critical analysis, individual and group work be assessed and by whom?

The detail relating to these areas will be determined by learning providers.

As previously indicated in order to meet the second learning experience specified in the Standard, learning providers will use a range of ways to assess learning.

Partnership working is an important principle of the Standard for Residential Child Care. Partnerships may take the form of employers sharing workplace experiences or employers and learning providers establishing a model of learning which meets the Standard.

It will be a requirement of approval by the SSSC that any learning provider wishing to deliver the award has established partnerships with employers.

Employers may wish to establish partnerships in neighbourhoods or other associated organisations. These partnerships will provide opportunities for staff to gain experience of another setting. This would be organised to suit the employer, staff member and the needs of young people. Through this staff may carry out agreed work which would allow them to research contrasting approaches in practice and/or management.