Assessment Strategy

BIIAB Level 4 Diploma in Adult Care

Outline of an Assessment Strategy and its Purpose

An Assessment Strategy provides a clear outline to how learners will be assessed when undertaking a regulated qualification. The Assessment Strategy aligns with the qualification specification and guides both tutors and learners through the assessment process.

The purpose of an Assessment Strategy is to align all assessment factors linked to a regulated qualification specification by clarifying what is required. This ensures that:

- All required assessments are appropriate
- Assessments are clear, fair and reliable
- Assessments support learning and allow learners to achieve
- Assessments meet regulation and Awarding Body requirements

The Assessment Strategy is broken down per unit, allowing for there to be a clear understanding to the required Assessments, per unit in order to achieve the overall qualification.

Assessment

This qualification is internally assessed and requires internal and external moderation. Specific requirements and restrictions may apply to individual units within qualifications. Please check unit and qualification details for specific information.

Centres must take all reasonable steps to avoid any part of the assessment of a learner (including any internal quality assurance and invigilation) being undertaken by any person who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment.

Overview of assessment strategy

The qualification contains competence and knowledge units. Competence units are assessed following NVQ principles and require learners to build a portfolio of evidence, which will demonstrate competence by various means including observation by an assessor. Knowledge assessments provided by BIIAB will ensure that effective learning has taken place and that learners have the opportunity to:

- meet the assessment criteria
- achieve the learning outcomes

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Centres must obtain approval for any Centre Devised Assessments before their use. Please contact BIIAB Qualifications Limited for details of the Centre Devised Assessment process and procedure.

Assessment Process

Assessment is the process used to judge the competence, of a learner, against set standards. The assessor is the person who is responsible for determining learners' competence. The assessor may be a workplace supervisor or an external person who is trained and qualified or working towards a qualification relevant to the assessor role.

Assessors base their judgement on performance and decide how it compares to the national standard. The assessor will also ask questions based on the knowledge required to do the work, to ascertain the knowledge and understanding of the learner.

When the required units have been completed and the assessor is satisfied that the learner has met the national standard, a recommendation for a certificate will be made.

An Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) is responsible for the quality assurance of the qualifications within the training organisation and will provide advice, guidance and support to the assessors. IQAs also ensure that the assessors apply the standards consistently and fairly. The IQA will review the portfolio of evidence during the assessment process.

An External Quality Assurer (EQA), who is appointed by BIIAB, will quality assure the assessment and internal quality assurance decisions involved in the development of the portfolio. The EQA will quality assure the qualification process, which ensures that certification of the qualification is reliable, consistent and to the national standard, by checking the consistency of assessments made by the training provider, and across training providers.

Assessment Principles

The Assessment Principles for this qualification can be seen in the section which follows, and it provides details of the key requirements for the qualification and the assessor/s and quality assurer(s) delivering, quality assuring and certificating the qualification.

Skills for Care and Development Assessment Principles – March 2016

Assessment Strategy

1. Introduction

1.1 Skills for Care and Development (SfC&D) is the UK sector skills council (SSC) for social care, children, early years and young people. Its structure for realising the SSC remit is via a partnership of four organisations: Care Council for Wales, Northern Ireland Social Care Council, Scottish Social Services Council and Skills for Care (adult social care only).

1.2 This document sets out the minimum expected principles and approaches to assessment and should be read alongside qualification regulatory arrangements and any specific requirements set out for particular qualifications. Additional information and guidance regarding assessment can be obtained from Awarding Organisations and from SfC&D partner organisations[1].

1.3 The information is intended to support the quality assurance processes of Awarding Organisations that offer qualifications in the Sector.

1.4 Where Skills for Care and Development qualifications are jointly supported with Skills for Health, Skill for Health assessment principles should also be considered: http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/images/standards/qcf/Assessment%20of%20Competence%20-%20Skills%20for%20Health%20Assessment%20Principles.pdf

1.5 Throughout this document the term unit is used for simplicity, but this can mean module or any other similar term.

1.6 In all work we would expect assessors to observe and review learners practising core values and attitudes required for quality practice. These include embracing dignity and respect, rights, choice, equality, diversity, inclusion, individuality and confidentiality. All learners should follow the appropriate standards for conduct2 and all those involved in any form of assessment must know and embrace the values and standards of practice set out in these documents.

1.7 Assessors should ensure that the voices and choices of people who use services drive their practice and that of their learner. This will be apparent throughout the evidence provided for a learner's practice[2].

2 Assessment Principles

[1] See Appendix A for links to SfC&D partner organisations' websites
[2] See Appendix B for links to standards for conduct in UK nations

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Good practice dictates the following:

2.1 Learners must be registered with the Awarding Organisation before formal assessment commences.

2.2 Assessors must be able to evidence and justify the assessment decisions that they have made.

2.3 Assessment decisions for skills-based learning outcomes must be made during the learner's normal work activity by an occupationally qualified[3], competent and knowledgeable assessor.

2.4 Skills-based assessment must include direct observation as the main source of evidence and must be carried out over an appropriate period of time. Evidence should be naturally occurring and so minimise the impact on individuals and their families and carers.

2.5 Any knowledge evidence integral to skills-based learning outcomes may be generated outside of the work environment, but the final assessment decision must show application of knowledge within the real work environment.

2.6 Assessment decisions for skills-based learning outcomes must be made by an assessor qualified to make assessment decisions. It is the responsibility of the Awarding Organisation to confirm that their assessors are suitably qualified to make assessment decisions.

2.7 Simulation may not be used as an assessment method for skills-based learning outcomes except where this is specified in the assessment requirements. In these cases, the use of simulation should be restricted to obtaining evidence where the evidence cannot be generated through normal work activity. Video or audio recording should not be used where this compromises the privacy, dignity or confidentiality of any individual or family using services.

2.8 Where the assessor is not occupationally competent in a specialist area, expert witnesses can be used for direct observation where they have occupational expertise in the specialist area. The use of expert witnesses should be determined and agreed by the assessor, in line with internal quality assurance arrangements and Awarding Organisation requirements for assessment of units within the qualification and the sector. The assessor remains responsible for the final assessment decision.

[3] See Appendix C for links to guidance on qualifications for occupational competence in UK nations

2.9 Where an assessor is occupationally competent but not yet qualified as an assessor, assessment decisions must rest with a qualified assessor. This may be expressed through a robust countersigning strategy that supports and validates assessment decisions made by as yet unqualified assessors, until the point where they meet the requirements for qualification.

2.10 Witness testimony from others, including individuals and their families, can enrich assessment and make an important contribution to the evidence used in assessment decisions.

2.11 Assessment of knowledge-based learning outcomes

- may take place in or outside of a real work environment
- must be made by an occupationally qualified and knowledgeable assessor, qualified to make assessment decisions
- must be robust, reliable, valid and current; any assessment evidence using pre-set automated tests, including e-assessment portfolios, must meet these requirements and can only contribute to overall decisions made by the assessor

2.12 It is the responsibility of the Awarding Organisation to ensure that those involved in assessment can demonstrate their continuing professional development, up to date skills, knowledge and understanding of practice at or above the level of the unit.

2.13 Regardless of the form of recording used for assessment evidence, the guiding principle must be that evidence gathered for assessment must comply with policy and legal requirements in relation to confidentiality and data protection. Information collected must be traceable for internal and external verification purposes. Additionally, assessors must ensure they are satisfied the evidence presented is traceable, auditable and authenticated and meets assessment principles.

3 Quality Assurance

3.1 Internal quality assurance is key to ensuring that the assessment of evidence for units is of a consistent and appropriate quality. Those carrying out internal quality assurance must be occupationally knowledgeable in the unit they are assuring and be qualified to make quality assurance decisions. It is the responsibility of the Awarding Organisation to confirm that those involved in internal quality assurance are suitably qualified for this role.

3.2 Those involved in internal quality assurance must have the authority and the resources to monitor the work of assessors. They have a responsibility to highlight and propose ways to address any challenges in the

assessment process (e.g. to ensure suitable assessors are assigned to reflect the strengths and needs of particular learners).

3.3 Those carrying out external quality assurance must be occupationally knowledgeable and understand the policy and practice context of the qualifications in which they are involved. It is the responsibility of the Awarding Organisation to confirm that those involved in external quality assurance are suitably qualified for this role.

3.4 Those involved in external quality assurance have a responsibility to promote continuous improvement in the quality of assessment processes.

4 Definitions

4.1 **Occupationally competent:** This means that each assessor must be capable of carrying out the full requirements of the area they are assessing Occupational competence may be at unit level for specialist areas: this could mean that different assessors may be needed across a whole qualification while the final assessment decision for a qualification remains with the lead assessor. Being occupationally competent means also being occupationally knowledgeable. This occupational competence should be maintained annually through clearly demonstrable continuing learning and professional development.

4.2 **Occupationally knowledgeable:** This means that each assessor should possess, knowledge and understanding relevant to the qualifications and / or units they are assessing. Occupationally knowledgeable assessors may assess at unit level for specialist areas within a qualification, while the final assessment decision for a qualification remains with the lead assessor. This occupational knowledge should be maintained annually through clearly demonstrable continuing learning and professional development.

4.3 **Qualified to make assessment decisions:** This means that each assessor must hold a qualification suitable to support the making of appropriate and consistent assessment decisions. Awarding Organisations will determine what will qualify those making assessment decisions according to the unit of skills under assessment.

4.4 **Qualified to make quality assurance decisions:** Awarding Organisations will determine what will qualify those undertaking internal and external quality assurances to make decisions about that quality assurance.

4.5 **Expert witness:** An expert witness must:

- have a working knowledge of the units on which their expertise is based
- be occupationally competent in their area of expertise.

- have EITHER any qualification in assessment of workplace performance OR a work role which involves evaluating the everyday practice of staff within their area of expertise

4.6 **Witness testimony:** Witness testimony is an account of practice that has been witnessed or experienced by someone other than the assessor and the learner. Witness testimony has particular value in confirming reliability and authenticity, particularly in the assessment of practice in sensitive situations. Witness testimony provides supporting information for assessment decisions and should not be used as the only evidence of skills.

Appendix A: Skills for Care and Development partnership website links

- http://www.socialcare.wales
- http://www.niscc.info
- http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk
- http://www.sssc.uk.com
- http://www.skillsforcareanddevelopment.org.uk

Appendix B: Codes and Standards of Conduct

- http://www.socialcare.wales/dealing-with-concerns/codes-of-practice-and-guidance
- http://www.niscc.info/standards-and-guidance
- http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Support-for-leaders-and-managers/Managing-people/Code-of-Conduct.aspx
- http://www.sssc.uk.com/the-scottish-social-services-council/sssc-codes-of-practice

Appendix C: Guidance on Occupational Competence Qualifications

Wales:
Qualification Framework for the Social Care Sector in Wales
http://www.socialcare.wales/qualifications-funding/qualification-framework

Northern Ireland:
What's Workforce Support? - NISCC

England:
http://www.learningzone.niscc.info/qualifications-for-social-care-workers-and-managers

Scotland:
http://www.sssc.uk.com/careers-and-education/qualifications

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Appendix C: Joint awarding body quality group – assessor qualifications
Appendix A Codes and Standards of Conduct

- D32 Assess Candidate Performance and D33 Assess Candidate Using Differing Sources of Evidence
- A1 Assess Candidate Performance Using a Range of Methods and A2 Assessing
- Candidates' Performance through Observation
- QCF Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment (for competence / skills learning outcomes only)
- QCF Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement (for knowledge learning outcomes only)
- QCF Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement BIIAB Level 4 Diploma in Adult Care Version 1 © BIIAB April 2018 22 www.biiab.org
- Qualified Teacher Status
- Certificate in Education in Post Compulsory Education (PCE)
- Social Work Post Qualifying Award in Practice Teaching
- Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CTLLS)
- Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning sector (DTLLS)
- Mentorship and Assessment in Health and Social Care Settings
- Mentorship in Clinical/Health Care Practice
- L&D9DI - Assessing workplace competence using Direct and Indirect methods (Scotland)
- L&D9D - Assessing workplace competence using Direct methods (Scotland)
- NOCN – Tutor/Assessor Award
- Level 3 Awards and Certificate in Assessing the Quality of Assessment (QCF)
- Level 4 Awards and Certificates in Assuring the Quality of Assessment (QCF)
- Level 3 Award in Education and Training JABQG Sept 2014 - Version 5
- Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training
- Level 5 Diploma in Educations and Training

Appeals

If learners are dissatisfied with an assessment outcome, they have the right to appeal. The **main** reasons for an appeal are likely to be:

- Learners do **not** understand why they are not yet regarded as competent, because of unsatisfactory feedback from the assessor

- Learners believe they are competent and that the assessor has misjudged them, or has failed to utilise some vital evidence

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BIIAB Qualifications Limited expects most appeals from learners to be resolved within the centre. BIIAB Qualifications Limited will only consider a learner's appeal after the centre's internal appeals procedure has been fully exhausted.

For full details of the BIIAB Qualifications Limited's appeals procedure please refer to https://biiab.co.uk/policies-and-procedures/