

STRATEGIC PLAN 2011~2014

Our vision

**To ensure that the Framework provides
tools and solutions to support
Scotland's learners and employers
by working closely with a range of
agencies involved in supporting the
economic recovery agenda**

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) supports individual learners and exists to sustain a vibrant lifelong learning culture in Scotland. It is our aim to include, where appropriate, qualifications and assessed learning in Scotland within the SCQF so that learners can identify their current position in relation to the Framework and can plan their future learning pathways. The Framework supports all of Scotland's citizens, learning providers and employers by:

- helping people of all ages and circumstances to access appropriate education and training over their lifetime, so as to fulfil their personal, social and economic potential;
- enabling employers, learners and the public in general to understand:
 - the full range of Scottish qualifications;
 - how qualifications relate to each other and to other forms of assessed learning;
 - how different types of qualification can contribute to improving the development, and utilisation, of the skills of the workforce;
 - how Scottish qualifications relate to qualifications in other countries;
 - how using level descriptors can assist with both qualifications development and benchmarking skills and experience.
- providing a Framework which fully supports both credit transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):
 - this provides a route for individuals, employers and institutions to achieve value for money, optimise efficiency savings and ensure that learning does not have to be repeated. It is recognised that this may require initial investment but would, we believe, provide significant savings in the long run for individuals, organisations and society in general.

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership

The SCQF is in the custody of, and managed by, the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQF Partnership). This is a company which has been formed to take the Framework to the next stage of implementation – that of:

- ensuring that, where appropriate, all assessed learning and qualifications in Scotland are included within the Framework;
- fully developing and promoting the Framework as a Lifelong Learning tool;
- extending the recognition of informal and non formal learning;
- developing relationships with other frameworks internationally.

The Partnership is a company limited by guarantee and is a Scottish registered charity.

The SCQF Partnership has a Board of Directors which comprises nominees of the following organisations:

- Scotland's Colleges;
- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education;
- Scottish Ministers;
- Scottish Qualifications Authority;
- Universities Scotland.

In addition the Board decided to use its right to co-opt a Director and on 1 April 2010 Jack Matthews was invited to take on this role representing the interests of employers. The Board has an independent Chair, Sir Andrew Cubie, CBE.

All of those bodies represented on the Board have a significant interest and involvement in, and influence on, learning in Scotland. The Partnership also works closely with a wide range of stakeholders, to help the company to achieve its goals. It is only through such partnerships and collaborative working that the Partnership will realise its vision. This strategic plan therefore, will be developed, implemented and evaluated through a variety of partnership arrangements using the SCQF Board partners but also the members of our key committees such as the Quality Committee, the Forum, which comprises around 34 different stakeholder organisations, and the European and International Group.

In developing this plan we have worked to optimise synergies with the strategic plans being developed by our partners. We have continued to take full account of the views of our partners and stakeholders as to the current context to ensure that we, along with others, are playing as full a part as possible in supporting the Government agenda to deliver economic recovery. The need to support economic growth and ensure that skills are utilised fully in workforce development are very clear to all concerned. We recognise fully that the next few years could see many changes in the education and training landscape both structural and contextual. This Strategic Plan has been developed to capitalise fully on our excellent partnership arrangements and to build on the recommendations which came from the Frontline Report commissioned by us in 2010 whilst still recognising that we will need to be flexible in order to respond to changing priorities for partners. Like many others we know that to deliver a real enabling agenda for Scotland over the next three years we will have to work smarter and for us this means utilising that real commitment and buy in from our partners to maximise our reach and our impact. We have consulted with our key stakeholders on how we can best support them and enhance education, learning, skills and training for individuals and employers. We also aim to support other existing partnerships or those which may emerge within the lifelong learning arena.

Our Vision

Our vision is to ensure that the Framework provides tools and solutions to support both our learners and our employers through what we know will be extremely difficult times. We will seek to add value to the strategy outlined in *Skills for Scotland: Accelerating the Recovery and Increasing Sustainable Economic Growth* by working closely with a range of agencies involved in supporting the economic recovery agenda.

The Partnership's values are quality, integrity, partnership, inclusiveness and respect. In delivering this plan we will seek at all times to work in ways which support these values.

Our Objectives

Objective 1: Maintain the quality and integrity of the SCQF

- 1.1 Build capacity within credit rating bodies and support a clearer understanding of the business benefits of the SCQF to encourage and ensure its widespread use
- 1.2 Ensure that any increase in the number of credit rating bodies continues to add value to the Framework and is managed in a robust and transparent manner consistent with our quality principles
- 1.3 Position the SCQFP firmly as a central source for up to date, clear and targeted information about the Framework and its uses to ensure both consistency and quality, including the provision of a central database
- 1.4 Provide a leadership role to partners and stakeholders which encourages collaboration and consistency of decision making in order to support learners and promote ongoing trust in the Framework
- 1.5 Ensure that we continue to provide strong leadership and support on the case for RPL, the benefits of credit transfer and the importance of progression and articulation

Objective 2: Promote and develop the Framework as a tool to support lifelong learning

- 2.1 Position the Framework, along with a range of tools including those linked to RPL, as a set of mechanisms to support learners, guidance givers, credit rating bodies, employers and providers of training, both public and private, in ways which are mutually beneficial
- 2.2 Actively encourage stakeholders, including funders, to utilise the Framework and its level descriptors in a wide range of communication materials
- 2.3 Work with key partners to fully develop and embed the Framework in specific sectors which will support skills utilisation and workforce development during a time of economic and employment change
- 2.4 Ensure that the Framework fully supports both the principles and the processes of Curriculum for Excellence, particularly in the Senior phase

Objective 3: Develop and maintain relationships with other frameworks in the UK, Europe and internationally

- 3.1 Position the SCQF as a leader in Framework development, sharing both successes and challenges with others in Europe and internationally
- 3.2 Work closely with colleagues in the UK and the Republic of Ireland to support mutual recognition of Frameworks and a collaborative approach to the European agenda
- 3.3 Contribute fully to the European agenda by engaging with the emerging policy instruments and initiatives to ensure an appropriate fit with Scottish education and training

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scottish credit and
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