

As you are aware, work on the Qualifications & Credit Framework (QCF) is developing at speed. Skills for Care are now developing units and qualifications units for the area of Moving and Handling. Proskills have been asked by UKES to facilitate a general Health and Safety QCF work stream. However, it is clear that the work Proskills are facilitating with Awarding Organisations and other SSC's that it covers very generic health & safety issues which do not meet our specific requirements. With regards to Moving and Handling we have sector requirements which need to reflect privacy and dignity, personalisation and person centred approaches etc especially at level 2&3 where we would expect that the People Who Use Services (PWUS) is actively engaged in the process. Therefore we will develop units that meet the needs of the sector whilst keeping abreast of units to develop within the general health safety workstream to avoid duplication and proliferation.

Skills for Care have been clear in our direction of travel that the QCF allows us the flexibility to undertake some generic 'performance' units that indicate the workers can do tasks and also 'knowledge' units that indicate the worker has the required knowledge to meet the needs of the people who use the service. We would therefore like to separate units that are differentiated on the basis of knowledge or skill. This would avoid duplication of learning for those learners who may undertake the unit in a setting where they are not yet able to demonstrate competence i.e. at college.

The content and structure of the proposed Moving and Handling units and qualifications will allow the opportunity to undertake the units through the Health and Social Care Diploma if the learner wishes to do so.

Moving and Handling Qualification development:

- The moving and handling units/ qualifications will be developed from the HSC National Occupational Standards and other appropriate standards such as Common core Principles for Self care etc.
- Timescales are very tight: Awarding organisations and unit writers are being asked to work to short deadlines and SfC&D needs to match this with tight turn-round times at the points where responses are needed (e.g. feedback on draft materials; final sign-off).

Skills for Care feel that it is of paramount importance to involve the sector in the development work and as part of the quality assurance process.

The terms of reference are attached for your information, though the role of the reference group will be:

- To act as an advisor
- That draft materials be sampled, with a focus on mandatory units/core material, and any optional units with a partner-specific priority
- That draft materials be reviewed against tight criteria.
- That the internal reference group operate primarily as a 'virtual' group, circulating material by email and responding by email and through teleconferences, working to agreed timescales that will be notified as early as possible

In addition Feedback from the sector indicates that the current title of this unit/qualification does not reflect the good practice in our sector of the basic human right of having the autonomy to privacy and dignity of when using health and social care services. I will be circulating a paper shortly to propose the change of name for this units/qualification to reflect good practice. Your views on this would be very welcome.