

SCQF Case Study - Youth Scotland The Benefits of Credit Rating



Background

Youth Scotland aims to enable young people throughout Scotland to maximise their full potential through the provision of quality educational and social opportunities. Providing services to 834 youth agencies, the organisation works in partnership with a network of area associations and local authorities to support youth workers in the delivery of safe and inspiring leisure opportunities to young people throughout Scotland.

What programmes were credit rated?

The Youth Achievement Awards, administered by the Youth Scotland youth group network and accredited by ASDAN, are an innovative approach to recognising the contributions of young people in a number of different settings, including volunteering work and active citizenship. The structure of the Awards offers flexibility, progression and personalisation. Skills developed include communication, teamwork and

relationships along with organisational skills through the creation of the personal portfolio. Attitudinal change is achieved through encouraging young people to:

- take responsibility for the activities they are involved in;
- reflect on what they have achieved;
- place a value on what they have accomplished; and,
- develop motivation, confidence and self-esteem.

The Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards were credit rated and placed onto the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) in November 2007. This means that their level can be directly compared to the level of other mainstream qualifications, including Standard Grades, Highers, SVQs and HNCs. SQA credit rated the Awards at levels 4 -7 on the SCQF.

What were the benefits?

Credit rating helps learning providers and employers to understand the value of these Awards as they are now easier to compare to the level of mainstream school qualifications.

Youth Scotland has also witnessed a dramatic rise in the number of operating agencies offering Youth Achievement Awards since their inclusion on the SCQF. From March 2008 to March 2009 the number of participating units soared from 211 to 278, compared with 201 in March 2007. In the same period the number of operating agencies also increased from 45 to 57. Youth Scotland believes that this rise is no coincidence, and is due to the added value the credit rated status of the Awards provides to centres and young people.

Both Youth Scotland and the SCQF Partnership welcome the increased interest, as the Awards provide recognition of all the achievements of young people.

Steven Grieg, Youth Work Manager at Youth Scotland, comments, "The Awards provide a framework to recognise and value young people's achievement regardless of the learning environment. Their value has increased dramatically through SCQF credit rating and levelling. This is evidenced by the increase in registrations to offer the awards, particularly from schools and colleges, since credit rating was completed in November 2007."

Aileen Ponton, CEO of the SCQF Partnership, adds, "The credit rating and levelling of the Youth Achievement Awards on the SCQF provides additional currency and credibility, and their placement on the framework gives parity with other qualifications and awards."

For more information on the benefits of credit rating your learning programmes, contact the SCQF Partnership on 0845 270 7371 or at info@scqf.org.uk.