

My Skills, My Future - SCQF Case Study

**Ross Hammell, Community Education Worker,
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Background to the individual/organisation

I am a Community Education Worker for Falkirk Council, mainly based at Bonnybridge Community Education Centre. I attended the SCQF My Skills, My Future (MSMF) training in March 2014 and then quickly enrolled onto the MSMF Train the Trainer workshop which took place in April 2014.

Background to your work/user groups

I work with 2 distinct groups of clients – those attending community-based work clubs who generally have very few formal qualifications and school-based alternative curriculum groups for S3/4 who are in danger of leaving school with no formal qualifications.

How have you used MSMF with your user groups/clients?

I have been using the MSMF packs with my client groups to draw out their skills to help them into employment or study. Many of the individuals I work with are attempting to return to

work having been carers for a very long time and feel that they have no abilities or skills that would be attractive to employers. The MSMF pack, and in particular, the *My Experience* cards have helped my clients to recognise that they do have skills that are both transferable to and valuable in the workplace.

How has using MSMF benefited your user groups/clients?

The MSMF resource is a really useful tool and has helped provide a structure for my clients in preparing personal statements and cover letters when applying for jobs. The *My Skills* section of the MSMF pack provides very useful wording for CVs and has helped my clients express themselves more effectively when “selling themselves” to employers, by helping them to articulate their skills in a way that employers will understand. For me, the benchmarking of skills to an SCQF level is the pinnacle of the resource for me, as, although it’s not an exact science, it gives my clients an idea of how their skills and abilities compare to those gained through formal channels. This can really help to boost my clients’ confidence when applying for jobs or a college place, particularly because when they first arrive they feel that they have no skills and would not position themselves anywhere on the SCQF.

Do you have any plans to use MSMF in the future?

Later this year, we are planning on incorporating some of the elements of the MSMF pack into a “work club buddy” training scheme to encourage clients to find a career that will suit their skills. We are also hoping to use MSMF within 16+ activity agreements. I am a real advocate for My Skills, My Future and hope to continue to use it to benefit my clients for a long time to come!

For more information on the benefits of using the My Skills, My Future pack with various user groups, get in touch with the SCQF Partnership on 0845 270 7371 or at info@scqf.org.uk. Free MSMF workshops run regularly throughout the year – check out the website at <http://scqf.org.uk/events/> for details and to book your place.