

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16





Jamie Hepburn MSP
Minister for Employability and Training

I am delighted to contribute to the SCQF Partnership’s Annual Report, celebrating the achievements of the SCQF in 2015-16. The aims of the Partnership strike a chord with the Scottish Government’s ambitions to deliver excellence and equity in education for all of our children and young people. Education contributes to the growth of our economy and to the quality of life of each individual.

This ambition can only be realised by working in partnership with local authorities, schools, colleges and universities, but also with organisations such as the SCQF Partnership which has an important role to play in our efforts to demonstrate ways to connect the learning journey to future employment and build on prior learning.

By widening opportunities in further, higher, and vocational education, all children and young people will have the same chances to succeed. The SCQF supports this by articulating how the different types and levels of qualification are positioned, helping learners to make sense of their journey through education and training.

Over the course of 2015-16 the SCQFP achieved many things. It has moved into the second pilot phase of the Adult Achievement Awards following the success of the first phase, reviewed the SCQF online database and launched the School Ambassador Programme. The international interest that the SCQF attracts remains inspiring.

The partnership agreement with Scottish Union Learning is also an accomplishment that will encourage more employers to use the SCQF. The framework helps employers to understand the range of current and previous qualifications whilst affording them the ability to get their own training courses credit rated. Clearly the Partnership has a pivotal role in our efforts to close the attainment gap and provide the skills and knowledge that our economy needs.

I look forward to seeing what progress the next year brings to the SCQF.

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.



SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	SVQs/MAs
12			Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship SVQ 5
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Professional Apprenticeship
9		Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4
8		Higher National Diploma	Diploma Of Higher Education	Technical Apprenticeship SVQ 4
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 3
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 3
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ 2
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award	SVQ 1
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3			
2	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2015/16



CHAIR'S REPORT

Sir Andrew Cubie CBE, FRSE

It is 15 years since the establishment of the SCQF and 9 since the creation of the SCQFP. For those of us who have been involved throughout that journey it is easy to be over reflective. However, much has been achieved since 2001 to the benefit of learners in Scotland. That has also been so in the last year where despite continuing constraints in funding progress on many fronts both at home and overseas continues to be made. Aileen Ponton will describe more of the detail of this in her report. A move to new office premises was made to financial advantage and without disruption to business, stakeholder engagement was even more strongly developed deepening the partnerships which are at the heart of our purpose and the launch of the Ambassador programme for schools realised a long held ambition. As ever none of this could have occurred, but for the dedication, skill and unremitting hard work of Aileen and her small committed team. I salute them all as it has been a privilege for me, as Chair, to work with them over the years. The impact of SCQF has in no small part been due to Aileen's effective leadership and standing. I have also been fortunate in having a most supportive and collegiate Board. On 1st April 2016 I stood down as Chair and passed that responsibility to Rob Wallen whose knowledge and experience will help carry the SCQFP forward with considerable vigour. I trust that he finds the role as rewarding as I have.



CEO'S REPORT

Aileen Ponton

This was a very interesting year for the Partnership. We had a diverse range of activities and although we work with partners on a very regular basis there was a very strong focus on joint partnership working this year.

We signed a joint memorandum with Scottish Union Learning, worked with Education Scotland and Newbattle Abbey College to support the further implementation of the highly successful Adult Achievement Awards and partnered six schools in becoming Ambassador schools for the SCQF. We also worked with two Higher Education institutions to look at credit rating access programmes to support the Closing the Gap and Wider Achievement agendas.

We ran a series of very successful workshops and seminars focussing on Recognition of Prior Learning, credit rating for third parties, using the SCQF creatively in Higher Education and building additional capacity for our Credit Rating Bodies.

We worked hard this year to increase our communications profile by really extending our use of social media and this brought us a range of new business and new partners as well as providing us with feedback on our key services and products.

This year also saw us being asked to provide advice and develop strategies for Frameworks in Hong Kong, Bahrain and Macedonia, proof that the SCQF continues to be seen as one of the most forward thinking, inclusive, and robust Frameworks globally.

We do hope that you will be interested in at least one of our activities and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners and stakeholders that helped us achieve all of these objectives during 2015-16.

Our Achievements in 2015/16

- Quality



REVIEW OF THE SCQF DATABASE

The SCQF Database was reviewed during 2015-16. This work was carried out with funding from the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union to work on updating the SCQF Database with the vision of linking it to the 'Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe' (LOQE) Portal.

As a result, the new Database, launched in June 2016, is a streamlined, responsive information source with an improved search function and increased visibility of EQF levels. Users will be able to search for programmes across a range of SCQF levels and subject areas – a useful tool for curriculum planners and programme designers.

Following another successful bid for funding to the Erasmus+ programme, the work towards linking our database to the Europe portal will continue.

HEI CREDIT RATING PROJECT

The SCQF Partnership, through the Scottish Funding Council, was able to fund two projects within the HE Sector in 2015-16. The project had three aims: to help overcome any perceived barriers to credit rating non-mainstream provision within universities; to expand the types of credit rated programmes within universities in Scotland and most importantly; to build capacity of staff trained to credit rate non-mainstream provision within the HE sector.

The two successful projects were the University of Strathclyde's Accelerate programme and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Transitions 20/40 programme. Accelerate is a one-week summer programme for secondary pupils entering S5 or S6 which aims to supply participants, many from areas of traditionally low

participation in Higher Education, with a targeted focus on their chosen area of academic study, allowing them to find out about university study and the career options open to them. Transitions 20/40 is a widening access programme for young people and adult learners who seek training and a career in the performing and production arts.



SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

We held two successful events in 2015-16 to share good practice amongst our Credit Rating Bodies (CRBs). Attendees learned of ways in which Credit Rating Bodies are using their credit rating activities to support a range of partnerships, including working with training and development networks and national governing bodies. They also heard about how CRBs are using the SCQF to support student learning, student transitions and access, continuous professional development for staff, working with industry bodies and working overseas.

Our Achievements in 2015/16

- Engagement and Communication



Adult Achievement Awards organisers and recipients

ADULT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS MOVE INTO 2ND PILOT PHASE

Following the successful development and credit rating of the Adult Achievement Awards, the project has gone from success to success.

In 2014 Newbattle Abbey College was asked by the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) Partnership and Education Scotland to develop Adult Achievement Awards. Supported by a sector based steering group the awards were credit-rated by Edinburgh Napier University in January 2015 at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 6.

Following credit rating, 10 pilot programmes ran from September 2015 to February 2016. An event in March 2016 hosted by Newbattle Abbey College saw the presentation of the interim evaluation report and celebrated learner success. 150 learners achieved an award during this phase. A final report has now been published by Education Scotland and plans are in development for the next phase of the project.

The report is published on the Education Scotland website.

SCHOOL AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

The SCQF Partnership launched its new School Ambassador Programme in 2015. An official launch event for this first cohort of schools took place on 18 November 2015 in Glasgow and was attended by representatives from the schools, along with a number of SCQF partners. Sir Andrew Cubie CBE FRSE, Chair of the SCQF Partnership Board, presented plaques to this first group of Ambassadors.

With the School Ambassador Programme, the SCQF Partnership supports schools so that the Framework becomes second nature to learners and school staff and the benefits of using the Framework are cascaded throughout the school and to parents and carers. Benefits include supporting flexible learning pathways for learners as they plan their learning journey and understanding the many different learning programmes that are on the Framework and how these can be compared against standard academic qualifications.

The six schools in the first cohort are: Braeview Academy, Dundee; Monifieth High School, Dundee; Oban High School, Oban; Prestwick Academy, South Ayrshire; St Andrews Secondary School, Glasgow and; St Mungo's High School, Falkirk.

JOINT PROJECT WITH SCOTTISH UNION LEARNING

During 2015-16, The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQFP) and Scottish Union Learning (SUL) signed a Partnership Agreement committing to work together in encouraging employers to utilise the SCQF. The project aims to support effective workforce development including increasing the number of learning programmes recognised on the Framework which are owned by employers and unions and through using the SCQF to aid recruitment. The agreement was signed by Wendy Burton, Director of Scottish Union Learning and Aileen Ponton, Chief Executive of SCQFP.

SUL works within the structure of the STUC to engage with trade unions to develop and support the strategy for union-led learning in Scotland.

This Partnership Agreement will highlight areas where the SCQFP and SUL share objectives to support the Scottish Government in enhancing the skills and employability of individuals while also creating high skilled, high productivity, healthy workplaces where this talent is fully utilised.

As part of the agreement, unions will engage with employers to establish a pilot for credit rating the training already offered and examine the positive impact of this on progression, job design and skills utilisation. SCQFP will deliver workshops for union learning organisers to assist them in this task and will provide them with ongoing support.



Our Achievements in 2015/16

- European and International Projects



SCQF Partnership welcomes Bangladesh delegation



Aileen Ponton addressing kick-off meeting of Macedonia project



NQF-IN project kick-off meeting, Warsaw

STUDY VISITS

In the first quarter of 2016 we hosted two high profile study visits to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQFP). In February we welcomed a delegation from the National Skills Development Council (NSDC) of Bangladesh. The visit was designed to give the group an overview of the SCQF, the Partnership, and an understanding of how learning programmes are placed on the Framework.

Another successful study visit took place in April over three days when we hosted a group from Estonia under the banner of the Epper project. This project aims to address the problem of insufficient and ineffective co-implementation of Recognition of Prior Learning and European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) principles in Estonia.

MACEDONIA PROJECT

Early in 2016 the SCQFP, representing the UK, won a joint bid for the further improvement of the Macedonia Qualification Framework. This project is being undertaken by Poland, Croatia and the United Kingdom, with Poland as the lead partner, as well as eminent experts from a number of European countries. The project commenced in January 2016 and has a completion date of July 2017.

NQF-IN PROJECT

SCQF Partnership is also a partner in the National Qualifications Framework-IN (NQF-IN) project which had its kick-off meeting in Warsaw in November 2015 at the Educational Research Institute. The main goal of the NQF-IN project is to provide evidence based support to national governments, EU agencies and key stakeholders in developing policies on including non-formal Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications into NQFs. The project runs from September 2015 to September 2018.

Our Achievements in 2015/16

- Social Media

Social Media continues to play an important role in the SCQFP communications strategy. Over 2015/16 we have focused on engagement utilising our key channels: SCQF Blog; Twitter; Facebook; LinkedIn; YouTube and; our Bi-Monthly e-zine to communicate with our diverse audience.

Social Media enables us to connect with and reach audiences that have in the past proved difficult to connect with (such as Learners, Parents/Carers and Employers).

The stats speak for themselves:



'What's the SCQF in my SQA Exam Certificate' Video View Campaign (24 July – 7 August 2015)



'Is your child making learning choices' – Web link Campaign (March 2015)



Exam Results August 7th 2015, 914 clicks from Twitter feed through to SCQF website information page for S2-S6 students.



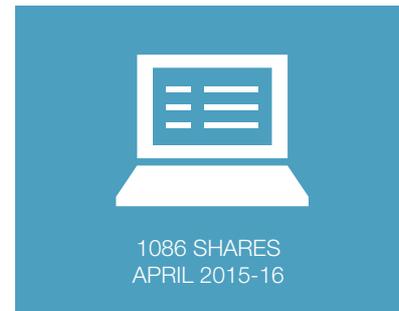
In addition to Likes and Mentions we had over 3500 Retweets of SCQF Posts on Twitter over 12 months



Between April 2015 and April 2016 people watched 7766 minutes of video on the SCQF Partnership YouTube Channel



Despite being a small organisation with a team of less than 10 employees our audience on LinkedIn continues to grow at a steady rate AND we keep them engaged with an average engagement rate of 4.8%. According to Forrester the average engagement rate on a LinkedIn Business page is 0.054%.



Alongside the website, the SCQF Blog is our content hub which enables us to share information on a range of projects and research. This year we invited contributions from external colleagues too.

Connect with us



Financial Statement

SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2016

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2016 £	Restricted Funds 2016 £	Total Funds 2016 £	Unrestricted Funds 2015 £	Restricted Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2015 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	4	500,000	213,154	713,154	500,000	250,225	750,225
Charitable activities	5	59,126	76,479	135,605	65,665	-	65,665
Investments	6	5	-	5	6	-	6
Other	7	245	-	245	-	-	-
Total Income		559,376	289,633	849,009	565,671	250,225	815,896
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	517,353	289,633	806,986	521,645	250,225	771,870
Total Expenditure		517,353	289,633	806,986	521,645	250,225	771,870
Net income/(expenditure)		42,023	-	42,023	44,026	-	44,026
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		42,023	-	42,023	44,026	-	44,026
Funds reconciliation							
Total Funds brought forward		308,259	-	308,259	264,233	-	264,233
Total Funds carried forward		350,282	-	350,282	308,259	-	308,259

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The information presented above is not the charity's statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the Statement of Financial Activities.
The statutory accounts have been externally scrutinised by Wylie and Bisset LLP who audited the statutory accounts and their report thereon contained an unqualified audit opinion.

The statutory accounts were formally approved by the Trustees of the charity on 24 September 2016.



Signed on behalf of the Trustees

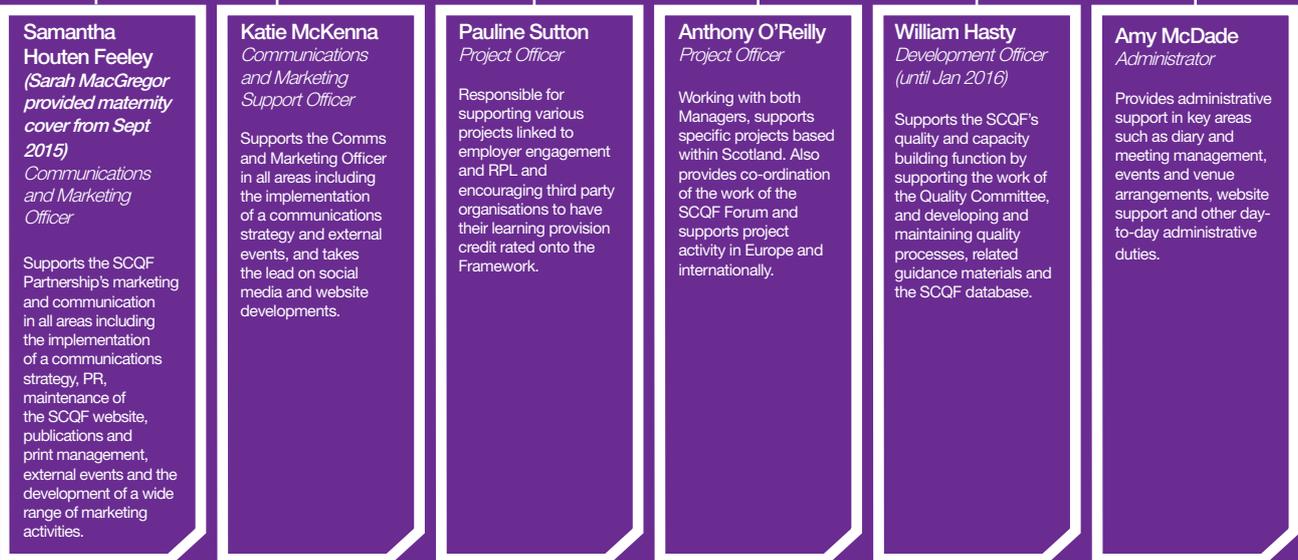
We confirm that the above summarised financial information is consistent with the audited financial statements of the Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework Partnership for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Wylie & Bisset LLP
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditor

SCQF PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



SCQF PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE TEAM



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scottish credit and
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