

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQFP)

Periodic Review Report

Executive Summary

Name of CRB: Scottish Police College (SPC)

Date of periodic review visit: Wednesday 27 November 2013

Scope of credit rating

The SPC is approved to credit rate for the SCQF at Level 7 and above, across a range of police-related subjects and areas.

Third Party credit rating

The SPC was awarded Third Party SCQF credit rating status for the *Skills for Justice* sector in 2010.

Background to the periodic review

The Scottish Police College (SPC) was approved as a Credit Rating Body (CRB) in 2009. Since then it has been subject to three successful annual monitoring visits. Under the Quality Assurance Model CRBs are then subject to a periodic review every four years carried out by a team of reviewers normally consisting of an external reviewer, a member of the SCQFP Quality Committee and an SCQFP Executive Officer.

The Periodic Review process requires that organisations must continue to demonstrate that they have the capacity, commitment and ability to continue to be awarded the facility to credit rate within the SCQF. It also requires the organisations to demonstrate that they continue to fully meet the criteria for being a Credit Rating Body. The findings under each of these criteria is summarised below along with the outcome of the process.

Summary of findings

Criterion 1 – A Body of Good Standing

The major challenge facing SPC has been the move to a single police force on the 1 April 2013. The SPC became a part of “Police Scotland”, the single police force for Scotland under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

The Scottish Police College (SPC) - whilst being part of Police Scotland - still very much has its own identity as an institution both within Scotland and internationally. It will continue to focus on four core areas of training – Leadership and Development, Probationer Training, Road Policing and Crime Management. However, as part of a national Training, Leadership and Development function the College will develop an increasingly national focus overseeing and ensuring the quality of training delivery across the training function including that delivered in legacy force areas. In relation to the SCQF, the SPC remains as a Credit Rating Body.

The SPC has undertaken a significant amount of credit rating in the four year period and has developed a team of experienced credit raters. There is a clear commitment to credit rating and to the SCQF, which is seen as being an important element in their development processes for all learning programmes.

The current changes taking place at the SPC, however, raised some issues with regard to Criteria 1.1 and 1.2 relating to organisational identity and structure. The current interim state and the move to a 'steady state' were discussed during the day and the current and probable future structures explained. It is anticipated that these issues will be resolved during 2014.

The Board accepted that the CRB continues to meet Criterion 1 with one recommendation relating to this criterion (see below).

Criterion 2 – Robust Quality Assurance System

A new National Model for Quality Assurance has been developed by the SPC, based on the College's own QA model, and this will be rolled out across Scotland. The current role of the College and the current team under the Interim Head of Quality Assurance will transfer into taking on a broader Quality Assurance focus for all national training provision, some of which was previously delivered within the legacy forces before reform. The SPC role is likely to be to co-ordinate a larger quality assurance structure using Quality Assurance Officers and Quality Assurance "agents" both at the SPC and within local training delivery centres.

The Review Panel were informed that during the period of reform, the SPC is adopting a 'business as usual' approach which allows day to day needs to be met in relation to training, quality assurance and credit rating. Previously existing QA processes and systems would continue to operate during the interim period until overall structures and reporting lines were clarified.

As part of the proposed changes, a new Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) would be formed with external representatives from education and academic partners, as well as staff from quality assurance within the SPC and the Head of Training, Leadership and Development. This would be the group responsible for external monitoring of overall QA systems and processes, including credit rating (Criterion 2.3).

The Board accepted that the CRB continues to meet Criterion 2 with one recommendation relating to this criterion (see below).

Criterion 3 – Capacity and Commitment

The SPC has developed its credit rating processes over the past four years in tandem with updating and reviewing Quality Assurance procedures. This has ensured that credit rating is now an integral part of the programme design process; for example, it is now the case that all programmes that are developed (even those not being credit rated) incorporate at least 3 of the 4 mandatory SCQF criteria required for credit rating, and those being credit rated for the SCQF incorporate all 4 criteria.

During the period from 2009, the SPC has credit rated 19 programmes, including two Third Party programmes, from SCQF level 7 to SCQF level 11. This has enabled SPC to increase the knowledge and skills of their credit raters by allowing them to engage in credit rating different levels of programmes and therefore increase their own understanding of the SCQF level descriptors.

The Board accepted that the CRB continues to meet Criterion 3.

Criterion 4 Third Party Credit Rating

In the audit of credit rated programmes carried out (see above) no issues were identified with the third party credit rating procedures or paperwork apart from a minor issue with nomenclature which was raised by members of the Quality Committee post visit.

The Review Team examined the documentation and processes for third party credit rating and felt that the guidance issued to third parties was of a very high standard. It appeared to provide appropriate support to external organisations to allow them to understand the requirements of credit rating and the processes involved.

The Board accepted that the CRB continues to meet Criterion 4 but made one recommendation re nomenclature (see below).

Outcome

SCQF Board decision and conditions/recommendations

The Board accepted that the CRB meets all the criteria for continuing to credit rate for the SCQF.

At its meeting on 10 March 2014, the Board made a number of recommendations:

- Due to the ongoing changes within the new single police force and its potential for impact on the SPC, that a visit should be conducted by the SCQF Partnership and a QC member once the CRB has reached a steady state and processes are more finalised to ensure these processes are in line with the current QAM;
- The SPC be contacted by the Executive Team to raise the issue of nomenclature for third party learning programmes on the SCQF database which was identified subsequently to the review visit;
- The SPC be required to clarify the issue of externality in quality assurance processes once the single police force has reached a steady state.

The Board also decided that under the revised Quality Assurance Model (2014), from 1 April 2014 and following a successful periodic review, the Scottish Police College be allowed to move to an annual monitoring process which will involve only the completion of a self-assessment report to the Partnership on an annual basis. This report will be scrutinised by the SCQF Partnership and referred to the Quality Committee for consideration.