

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: TRAINING GRANT – REGISTRATION OF THE SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 11 th MARCH 2004 Ref: JS/Resources	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To inform Committee of additional training grant from the Scottish Executive, and to seek approval to create 4 additional posts of Assessor / Verifier.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It was reported to Committee in the last cycle that the Scottish Executive had allocated additional training grant to support for the training of staff to meet future registration requirements with the Scottish Social Services Council. This grant was to support training in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. Committee gave approval for the distribution of funding between the sectors.
- 2.2 The Scottish Social Services Council has set registration criteria for staff who are employed within the Social Services workforce. Staff within residential establishments are amongst the first groups to be registered.
- 2.3 In order to be registered with the SSSC, staff will require to hold a specific qualification. The recommended qualification for staff within residential child care is SVQ Level 3 in Care, together with an HNC in Social Care. It is expected that a similar level of qualification will be announced for staff within residential settings for adults and older people.
- 2.4 The SVQ is a work-based qualification and cannot easily be gained outwith employment. It requires that a qualified worker carries out assessment and direct observation of the workers practice. The worker needs to operate to the national standards to gain the award.
- 2.5 The Social Work Department already has an established SVQ centre, able to deliver these qualifications. However, the registration requirements mean that additional staff will require assessment within the next two years. Generally, assessment is carried out by a senior staff member, from within the unit. In order to ensure that all staff within residential settings have the opportunity to gain the appropriate qualification 4 additional posts of Assessor / Verifiers, Grade AP5 are required.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. It is proposed to create 4 temporary posts of Assessor / Verifier, Grade AP5 within the HQ Training Section of Social Work. The job description will be the same as that for existing Assessor / Verifier posts within Social Work.
- 3.2. These posts are temporary for 2 years – for the duration of the funding grant.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The creation of these posts will allow social care staff to receive the required level of training needed for workforce registration. This will allow Social Work to continue to meet its statutory obligations.
- 4.2. The additional cost to the Department will be met from the new allocation of training grant reported in the last cycle.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Committee is asked to :
 - i. approve the creation of 4 temporary posts of Assessor / Verifier, Grade AP5.
 - ii. remit the report to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration



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Director of Social Work
February 25, 2004

*For further information on this report please contact John Scott, Manager of Resources and Information,
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