

## **Standard for Residential Child Care FAQs**

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### **Background to the development of the Standard for Residential Child Care in Scotland**

The National Residential Child Care Initiative (NRCCI) was established in 2008 to meet the Scottish Government's commitment to review residential child care services and recommend required change. The ambition was to make residential child care the first and best placement of choice for those who needs it serves.

One of the recommendations of NRCCI's Higher Aspirations, Brighter Futures report was:

"Given the increasingly complex needs of children and young people and the professional tasks that require high level academic abilities, the workforce group believes that a minimum level of education at SCQF level 9 for workers, supervisors and managers would best equip them to undertake their work most effectively."

The Scottish Government asked the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) to develop a benchmark standard for the residential child care workforce and the outcome is the Standard for Residential Child Care in Scotland. Three working groups were set up to develop the Standard, The Children and Young People Representative Group, Strategic Group and Technical Expert Sub-Group. The sector was widely represented on each group.

The Standard specifies what is expected of those seeking registration with the SSSC as a manager, supervisor or worker in a residential child care service in Scotland. It also underpins the development and delivery of the SCQF level 9 qualification which managers, supervisors and workers will be required to achieve.

### **Who does the new Standard for Residential Child Care apply to?**

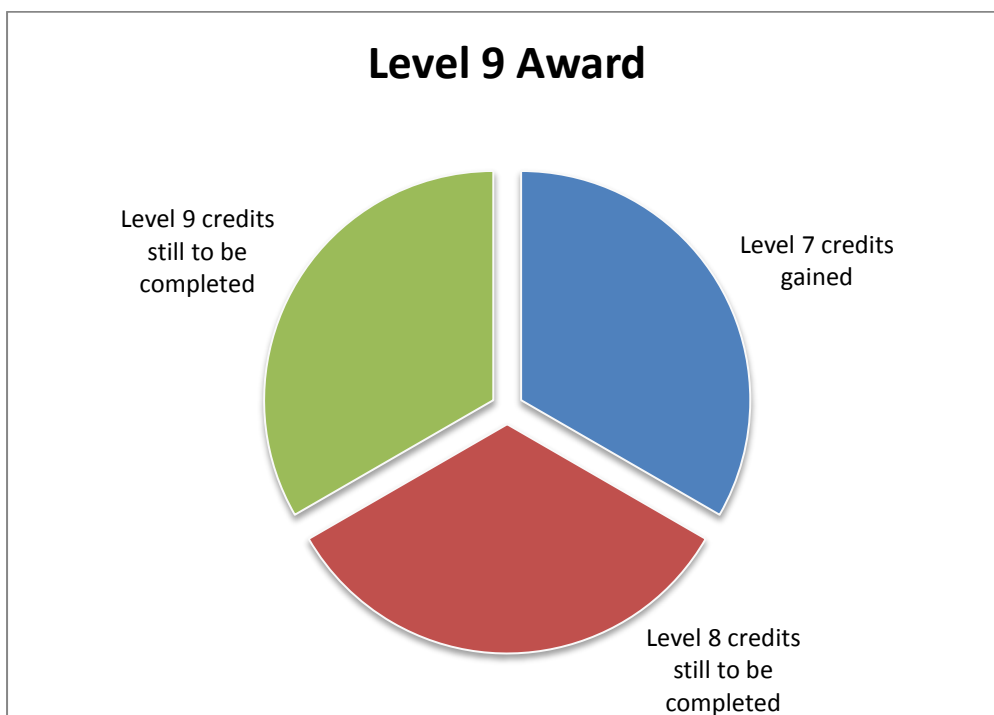
- Managers of a residential child care setting
- Supervisors of a residential child care setting
- Residential child care workers
- All new starts in a residential child care setting

## **Do I have to start my training all over again to meet the new Standard for Residential Child Care?**

No. The Standard for Residential Child Care is based on the principle of prior learning and that people obtain recognition for previous studies. Therefore if you already meet the SSSC registration requirement you will not have to undertake the whole award as you have qualifications which you should be able to use to gain Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

If you are new to residential child care and have no previous qualifications you will begin your studies for the standard through the completion of SVQ/HNC. It is through the SVQ that observed /assessed practice will be achieved.

You would then go on to complete the degree level qualification as illustrated below.



RPL is a key principle that all learning providers must comply with. There are two kinds of prior learning which count towards the degree level programme:

- learning which has been assessed and credit rated and has achieved relevant qualifications
- learning which has been gained from experience either from work or from life in general, providers will determine how such learning will be assessed.

## **I am registered with another regulatory body. Does the Standard for Residential Child Care in Scotland apply to me?**

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) cannot require anyone who is registered with another regulatory body to undertake additional qualifications.

It may be that you would wish to undertake the award or elements of it for your own continuing professional development (CPD).

**I already have a degree/Honours/Masters level studies will I be required to achieve the residential child care degree level award?**

Anyone holding a relevant degree will gain recognition for that through RPL.

**Will there be consistency in relation to the Recognition of Prior Learning?**

Individual learning providers will determine what credit they will give for previous studies. There are set principles to the application of RPL which learning providers have to meet.

However, part of the work the SSSC will be doing with providers is working out a minimum tariff of credit for previous studies which will count towards the award.

**Do staff need to achieve the level 9 award even if they work a few hours per week?**

Due to the rules governing registration, staff required to register with the SSSC must meet the requirements whether they are full or part time. Therefore regardless of the number of hours they work they will be required to achieve the level 9 award.

**Where can I study this award?**

It is anticipated that there will be a degree route which will be delivered by universities. There will also be a Professional Development Award (PDA) which will be developed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and delivered through a range of learning providers. Individual providers will determine the structure of the programme but each must meet the standard

**There is a requirement to have two distinct and different learning experiences, does that mean two placements?**

No. If you already meet the requirements for SSSC registration you will already have had your practice assessed and observed and this will form one of the learning experiences. You will only need to complete one further learning experience.

The second learning experience will be assessed by the learning provider but the work produced will require to be authenticated. The standard specifies that learning providers can use a range of ways to assess learning including visits to a range of workplace settings, staff exchanges and projects.

There is no specified length of time for the learning experience. The length may vary depending on your prior learning experience and will also be influenced by the requirements of the learning provider.

### **What support will be offered to workers making the transition to studying towards a higher level of qualification?**

Existing tools such as personal and team development plans will assist in determining the level of support required by each participant. Learning and development teams and/or human resources staff can support this type of learning needs analysis. The ways in which CELCIS and SSSC can support learners will be explored during the engagement events with the sector.

Current SSSC registration data provides an indicator of the complexity and volume of qualifications already achieved by staff. This information will be shared to assist employers and learning providers to prepare for implementation.

The SSSC will approve and quality assure programmes. Part of this process will involve ensuring learning providers make suitable arrangements to support learners.

In addition partnerships may work with learning providers to assist learners in their transition into the degree level studies.

### **How will activities such as reading and research, reflective writing, critical analysis, individual and group work be assessed and by whom?**

The detail relating to these areas will be determined by learning providers.

Assessed and observed practice will be achieved through completion of an SVQ and will form one of the learning experiences. As previously indicated in order to meet the second learning experience specified in the standard, learning providers will use a range of ways to assess learning.

Partnership working is an important principle of the Residential Child Care Standard. Partnerships may take the form of employers sharing workplace experiences or employers and learning providers establishing a model of learning which meets the standard.

It will be a requirement of approval by the SSSC that any learning provider wishing to deliver the award has established partnerships with employers.

Employers may wish to establish partnerships within neighbourhoods or other associated organisations. These partnerships will provide opportunities for staff to gain experience of another setting. This would be organised to suit the employer, staff member and the needs of young people. Through this staff may undertake agreed work which would allow them to research contrasting approaches in practice and/or management.

## How many people will need to gain the Standard for Residential Child Care?

The following table provides a summary of the numbers of those who are registered with the SSSC Residential Child Care workforce as of May 2015.

	Number Registered	Number with a qualification/ condition
Managers	353	109
Supervisors	722	196
Workers	5561	2177