



Northern Ireland Post Qualifying  
Education & Training Partnership

**PROGRAMME FOR  
CONSULTATION  
2008/2009**

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## **Introduction**

Consultation and engagement with key stakeholders is an integral component of the work of the PQ Partnership in determining and managing arrangements for the delivery of the NI PQ Framework.

The NISCC Standards For Approval of the Post Qualifying Education and Training Partnership requires:

- the PQ Partnership has an annual programme to consult with a range of key interests

The PQ Partnership's Consultation Strategy (March 2008) sets out in broad terms how the Partnership fulfils its commitment to consultation and engagement.

The Programme For Consultation sets out in detail the range of consultation and engagement activities undertaken by the PQ Partnership within a given year.

The Programme For Consultation supports the standards and performance indicators for the PQ Partnership's quality assurance arrangements.

The PQ Partnership in its Programme For Consultation wishes to take account of all consultation activity that takes place either as a discrete and distinct exercise in its own right or as part of other processes.

## **On-going Consultation/Engagement Activities**

As part of its structure and remit the PQ Partnership undertakes a range of activities that involve engagement with key stakeholders. These include:

### **1. PQ Professional Developments Sub Committee**

The Position Paper on Provision, Gaps and Priorities For Development in Social Work Education and Training Provision requires on-going consultation with a range of bodies including government departments, regulatory bodies, employers and providers of education and training.

### **2. Information and Development Forum**

The Forum acts as a focus for gathering information from and sharing information with candidates as service users of the NI PQ Framework and their employers.

### **3. Enrolment, Progression and Achievement**

The PQ Partnership has set standards and performance indicators for enrolment that require mechanisms to be in place to consult with candidates and employers on the accessibility and efficiency of the enrolment process. Feedback is sought from Management Board members and the Information and Development Forum.

#### **4. Information Workshops For Programmes Seeking Accreditation**

Information workshops provide opportunity to engage with potential providers and receive informal feedback on the accessibility of accreditation within the NI PQ Framework.

#### **5. Accreditation, Annual Monitoring and Re-Accreditation**

Feedback is obtained from all new programme providers on their experience of the accreditation process.

Programmes are required to specify the mechanisms they have in place to consult with service users and candidates at the point of accreditation and as part of annual and five year monitoring/review processes.

The Accreditation Board meets with a sample of candidates from accredited programmes as part of the five year review or where issues in relation to provision emerge

#### **6. Individual Assessment Route**

The Assessment Board seeks feedback from a sample of candidates who have submitted to the Individual Assessment Route using a variety of means, including via agency reps, the Information and Development Forum, focus groups and questionnaires

The Assessment Board seeks to assure itself that candidates, in their submissions to the Individual Assessment Route, include details of how they have actively engaged service users/carers in the work process and sought feedback. The inclusion of direct feedback from service users as evidence is encouraged

Surveys of employers whose employees have availed of the Individual Assessment Route will be undertaken

#### **7. PQ Quality Assurance Framework**

The Quality Assurance Standards require that employers and education and training providers and candidates are satisfied that the post qualifying education and training provided through the NI PQ Framework is effective. This is achieved by consultation arrangements being in place in order to promote awareness and the implementation of the NI PQ Framework.

#### **8. External Examiners/Assessors**

The PQ Partnership has external contributions to the Individual Assessment Route, Accreditation and Quality Assurance. The Accreditation Board and Quality Assurance Board also has access to the reports from External Assessors on Accredited Programmes.

## **Themes For Additional Consultation**

The following themes for Engagement and Communication were identified as part of the development of the Consultation Strategy (March 2008):

- Consulting and engaging with managers at all levels within organisations to promote the NI PQ Framework and seek ways to enhance ownership
- Using a Communications Strategy to enhance the profile of the Partnership and the NI PQ Framework with a wide range of key stakeholders
- Consulting on issues re clarity on where the NI PQ Framework fits and where responsibilities lie within the new structures for Trusts
- Consulting on the use of web-based communications
- Consultation with candidates to access feedback on a range of aspects of their experience as users of the NI PQ Framework

The PQ Partnership is conscious of the need for timely, appropriate and meaningful consultation that takes account of the strategic context. This principle will underpin consideration of the above themes when planning future consultation programmes.

For 2008/2009 the PQ Partnership will concentrate on engagement and consultation processes that are in place within the delivery of the NI PQ Framework and in addition explore options such as the development of online access for candidate consultation and feedback.

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<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Intended Outcome</b>
1. Explore feasibility of developing a Web-based facility feedback on a range of aspects	PQ staff & Information & Development Forum	Candidates as Users of the NI PQ Framework	By March 2009	Candidates to have an accessible means of providing feedback on their experience of any aspect of the NI PQ Framework
2. Consult with key stakeholders on the updating of Provision, Gaps and Priorities For Development in Social Work Education and Training Provision – Position Paper	Professional Manager and PQ Professional Developments Sub Committee	Government Departments Employers Providers	By June 2008	To collaboratively identify gaps and agree areas of priority for development
3. Consult with candidates on the Individual Assessment Route using questionnaires	Professional Officer and Assessment Board	Candidates on Individual Route	Beginning after October 2008 submission point and reporting to Management Board June 2009	To ensure the effectiveness of the Individual Assessment Route
4. Preparatory workshops for programmes seeking accreditation	Professional Officer to Accreditation Board	Potential Providers	Two workshops by March 2009	To provide information and receive feedback on the accessibility of accreditation
5. Receive External Assessor Reports and respond to issues raised	Quality Assurance Board Accreditation Board Assessment Board	External Assessors	Oct/ Nov 2008 April/May 2009	To consult on standards across routes and in context of equivalent provision elsewhere
6. Consult with all new accredited programmes	Professional Officer and Accreditation Board	Accredited Providers	After each Accreditation Board to March 2009	To consult with providers on their experience of accreditation to inform development