



NEWS SHEET January 2009

New Professional Officer Appointed

In the last edition we said goodbye and thank you to Maureen Browne who has left her post as Professional Officer in the PQ office.

Maureen's successor, Janet Moffett, began work (part time) with the Partnership at the beginning of November 08 - some of you will have met her already. She hopes to bring some of her experience in over 30 years as a social work practitioner and manager to her new post and will be providing professional support to the Assessment Panel and Board and to the Information and Development group.

Janet knows that she has a lot to learn about the work of the PQ partnership and asks for your patience over the next few months as she finds her feet. Luckily Marion, Helen and the rest of the team are showing great patience and being very supportive so far! Janet looks forward to working with the Partnership and to getting to know all of you.

Feedback from External Assessors

Welcome to Roisin McGoldrick, the new external assessor for the NI Framework. She and the other externals, Theresa Cowe and Pat McAuley were very positive in their comments with just a couple of suggestions for future work. For example, the need for Line Managers to produce more detailed reports and to check for confidentiality breaches. Also for candidates to adopt a more strategic approach to the selection of evidence.

Verbal Assessments

Unfortunately there were some technical problems with the new software being used for verbal assessments. This was off putting for some candidates and created delays in the interview timetable. The PQ office is considering how best to enhance the ease and quality of the recording process for the next assessment point. There has also been a suggestion that a rota needs to be drawn up to ensure that a 'floating' assessor is always available for the verbal panels. There will be one for the March assessment point.

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UK F R A M E W O R K A S S E S S M E N T G R I D		Submitted	Competent	RFW	Re-Submissions	Not Assessed/ withdrawn
		PQ1 APL	2	2	-	-
	PQ1 PORTFOLIOS	17	13	4	2	1
	PQ1 VERBAL	7	6	-	-	-
		26	21	4		1
			(80.76%)	(15.38%)		(3.85%)
	PQ APL	2	2	-		
	PQ PORTFOLIOS	9	8	1		
	ASSIGNMENT PQ2-4	14	12	2	3	
	ASSIGNMENT PQ2-5	16	12	4		
	ASSIGNMENT PQ5	1	1	-		
	DIRECT OBSERVATIONS	26	25	1		
	PQ VERBALS	13	10	3	1	
		81	70	11		
			(86.42%)	(13.58%)		
	AA	4	2	2	1	
			(5%)	(50%)		
	NI	3	2	1	1	
			(66.67%)	(33.33%)		
	TOTAL	114	95	18		1
			(85%)	(14%)		(0.99%)



Individual Assessment Route VERBAL PANELS

24th & 25th March
2009

WHICH AWARD?

Candidates and agency reps feel there is a lack of clarity as to whether a piece of work is more appropriate for the Specialist or the Leadership and Strategic Award under the NI Framework. This should become clearer as everyone becomes more familiar with the new framework. There will be an opportunity to discuss this issue at the Workshop planned for 17th February.

ATTENDANCE OF ASSESSORS AT DECISION MAKING MEETING

When a submission has been marked as 'referred', would assessors please note the importance of at least one of the assessors attending the Decision Making Meeting, as these referred submissions inevitably need some discussion by the panel.

Word Count under APL

Some candidates and Agency Reps had felt that the word count allowed for APL submissions was too tight and did not allow candidates the scope to evidence their competence. The Assessment Board Core Group discussed this at some length and it was decided to increase the word count per requirement to 300 for Certificated Learning APL submissions and 600 for Experiential Learning.

Candidates who still feel that this is not adequate should consider whether submission by Assignment or Verbal Assessment might be more appropriate for them.

Workshops and Conferences

The PQ office is planning two workshops for assessors in the Spring.

On 17th February there will be a half day workshop on issues around 'M' level assessment in the Comfort Hotel in Antrim. This will give assessors the opportunity to familiarise themselves with what an 'M' level submission should look like and how to support candidates to write at this level. There will be the opportunity discuss other issues.

A further workshop on service user involvement will be held on 1st April in Antrim Civic Centre.

Database

A number of training sessions on the use of the Database took place in November and December. Feedback from assessors and Agency Representatives indicates that people are becoming more comfortable using it and that its benefits are increasingly appreciated. Some features of the Database are underused, such as the facility to communicate with co-assessors, although it should be emphasised that while this is helpful, it cannot take the place of direct contact. Staff in the PQ office are always happy to give advice on the use of the Database.

Completing PQ under the UK Framework-Reminder to Candidates

Don't forget that in practice, there are only three further submission points for candidates to complete their PQ or Advanced Awards under the UK Framework - March and October 2009 and March 2010.

There are still 206 candidates who hold 4 or 5 PQ requirements and who may wish to complete under the UK framework. These candidates are reminded of this limited opportunity and are encouraged to plan submitting as soon as possible. Don't forget the range of ways in which submissions can be assessed, including Verbal Assessment which remains a popular option in the Individual Assessment route.

The NIPQETP *annual conference* will be held on **7 May 2009** in the Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena (note the later date in the hope that we have no problems with snow this year!) The theme will be Leadership in Social Work and we will have some high profile speakers.

The annual Award Ceremony will be on **24th June 2009**.

Look out for further information on all these events on our website.

Advanced Award candidates can map some existing requirements across to Leadership and Strategic Award in the new framework.

All candidates are encouraged to look at the PQ website (www.nipqetp.com) for full information on routes to completion and the various options within them.

Decision Making Meeting
29th April 2009
10.00 a.m.
in the
Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast

