

Scottish Social Services Council  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD4 1NY

19 May 2008

Dear Sir or Madam

**Consultation on Rules and Requirements for awards developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice 2008**

NCH Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Social Services Council's consultation paper, Rules and Requirements for awards developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice 2008. NCH Scotland's response draws upon our experience of providing services to some of the most vulnerable and difficult to reach children, families and young people in Scotland. NCH Scotland's answers to the specific questions raised in the consultation document are outlined below.

There are also a couple of general issues which NCH Scotland would like to raise in response to the consultation. We note, for example, that the Scottish Government is committed to "creating a workforce led by professionals qualified at level 9 in the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework". A high proportion of NCH Scotland's staff have already embarked upon and completed the Health and Social Care qualification at SVQ levels 3 and 4, and ultimately some would wish to progress to level 9 qualification – will there be transferability or interface between the existing and new qualifications in Childhood Practice?

NCH Scotland notes it is proposed that the new Level 9 qualification will "take the form of a work based bachelor's degree, graduate diploma or other appropriately validated award that meets the subject benchmark statement: The Standard for Childhood Practice (Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education [QAA 2007])". We take the view that, with reference to the work based aspect of individuals studying to obtain the new qualification, it is important that the Scottish Social Services Council recognises the new qualification could have serious resource implications for organisations and agencies where staff are seeking to obtain this qualification. The provision of in-house training, placements and the freeing of staff to study are just some of the areas where organisations and agencies are likely to incur expenses. Against this background, NCH Scotland believes that further consideration must be given to managing the transition to the new qualification, especially where organisations and agencies have already heavily invested in, and supported, their staff's efforts to obtain SVQ Levels 3 and 4.

Yours faithfully

Andrew S. Girvan  
Director of Children's Services

**SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

**Consultation questions about the Rules and Requirements for Awards Developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice**

Section 1: Draft Rules and Requirements

**Part II Approval of courses**

Question 1: The SSSC seeks your views on the draft Rules for the approval of courses. Are the proposed approval criteria set out in draft Rule 6 clear and appropriate?

Yes

If no, please provide any comment you wish to make.

Are there additional criteria that you feel we have left out?

No

If yes, please state any additional criteria.

Question 2: Do you envisage any difficulty in the proposed approval criteria (draft Rule 6) being applied and met?

Yes

If yes, please identify particular areas of concern.

Question 3: We would be pleased to receive any additional comments or suggestions that you have in relation to Part II of the draft Rules.

## SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

### Consultation questions about the Rules and Requirements for Awards Developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice

Section 1: Draft Rules and Requirements

#### Part III Monitoring, review and investigations of courses.

Question 1: Do you envisage any difficulties with the overall implementation of the draft Rules 8-15 for the monitoring, review and investigation of courses as currently set down?

No

If yes, please provide any comment you wish to make.

Do you anticipate any difficulties in working with the SSSC to achieve stated outcomes?

No

If yes, please detail.

Question 2: We would be pleased to receive any additional comments or suggestions that you have in relation to Part III of the draft Rules.

Please provide any comment you wish to make.

## SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

### Consultation questions about the Rules and Requirements for Awards Developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice

Section 1: Draft Rules and Requirements

#### Part IV External examination and verification.

Question 1: Do you envisage any difficulties with the overall implementation of the draft Rules 17-18 for external examination or verification as currently set down?

No

If yes, please provide any comment you wish to make.

Do you anticipate any difficulties in working with the Council to achieve stated outcomes?

No

If yes, please detail.

Question 2: We would be pleased to receive any additional comments or suggestions that you have in relation to Part IV of the draft Rules.

Please provide any comment you wish to make.

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**Consultation questions about the Rules and Requirements for Awards Developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice**

Section 1: Draft Rules and Requirements

**Part V Provision of information to SSSC.**

Question 1: Do you envisage any difficulties with the overall implementation of the draft Rule 19.1 as currently set down?

No

If yes, please provide any comment you wish to make.

Question 2: We would be pleased to receive any additional comments or suggestions that you have in relation to Part VI of the draft Rules.

Please provide any comment you wish to make.

**SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

**Consultation questions about the Rules and Requirements for Awards Developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice**

Section 1: Draft Rules and Requirements

**Part VI Appeals**

Question 1: Do you have any views on the proposed criteria for appeals (draft Rule 21-22)?

No

If yes, please provide any comment you wish to make.

Question 2: We would be pleased to receive any additional comments or suggestions that you have in relation to Part VI of the draft Rules.

Please provide any comment you wish to make.

**SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

**Consultation questions about the Rules and Requirements for Awards Developed from the Standard for Childhood Practice.**

Section 2: Requirements

Question 1: Do you have any views on the proposed Requirements? No
If yes, please provide any comment you wish to make.

Question 2: We would be pleased to receive any additional comments or suggestions that you have in relation to Section 2 draft Requirements?
Please provide any comment you wish to make.