

Note of the SVF Training sub group meeting held on 8th March 2011 (approved for circulation by members via email/ and at meeting held at GCVS 26th April)

2.00-4.30pm in the training room at Volunteer Centre Glasgow, 84 Miller Street, Glasgow G1 1DT

Present: Alistair Murison (Glasgow Life), Roy Campbell (Langside College), Bryan Bannerman (NHS GG&C), Ruth Farquharson (GCVS), David Maxwell, Billy McFarlane (both Volunteer Centre Glasgow)

Apologies: Helen Macneil (GCVS), Úna Gillon (Volunteer Centre Glasgow)

The principal purpose of the meeting was to build on the discussions at the last meeting to develop a shared view on the relative merits of various programmes to deliver the SVF actions 1, 3, 4, 7, and 13 regarding volunteer preparation, accredited training and recognition.

1. The group members present agreed the following, and that this view and related points could be shared with SVF Governance/2014 Legacy Groups and all our colleagues and partners at SQA, local volunteering structures, colleges, online, and with the researchers from Glasgow University TERU conducting the Personal Best evaluation:
 - Taster programmes and the Personal Best pilot programme/SQA award have successfully engaged under-represented groups and people with additional support needs and provided positive volunteering experiences and outcomes.
 - In order to deliver wider Legacy Framework and SVF objectives, and provide a more unified, flexible and inclusive approach to volunteer preparation and accredited training, Personal Best should be further developed to:
 - Ensure that it provides an opportunity for participants to try out a varied range of volunteering, not just sports/events: much like the Tasters Programmes delivered this year in the North, South West and South East Glasgow areas. Participants should gain not just an introductory workshop on the **full range of volunteering** opportunities available, but should also get to try some out: perhaps up to five half day taster sessions accounting for 50% of the required programmed 20 volunteering hours.
 - Ensure it is as accessible as possible: removing the pass/fail/maximum 2 attempts requirement and offering some units at SCQF level 3.
 - Ensure that it considers incorporating appropriate elements of both the proposed 'Preparing to volunteer' unit (SCQF levels 3/4/5) – into PB assignment 101 - and the 'Employability Award' (SCQF levels 3/4).
 - Ruth and Billy had examined many of the detailed course materials and unit descriptors for PB, proposed volunteering SQA awards, and the Employability Award and the Group noted the following:
 - The proposed 'Preparing to volunteer' unit (SCQF levels 3/4/5) didn't use appropriate language at level 3. Also, there was a query as to whether the target groups were really the same for all 3 levels?
 - Volunteer involving groups and organisations (VIOs) could use a number of the different PB units if they were more applicable to a wider range of volunteering roles/opportunities - e.g. safety, teams, conflict resolution,

customer care, equalities – fulfilling SVF action 13, “...consistent approach to the delivery of core training programmes”.

- We need the programme to take account of accredited prior learning.
 - There needs to be clear route maps into other vocational training such as retail, or catering, for example – to build on participants’ experience of relevant volunteering opportunities.
 - Further comments, suggestions and cross references are below in Ruth’s comparison notes as appendix 1.
2. Glasgow Life’s “Let Glasgow Flourish” programme is developing into a new training programme “Curious” – more information will be circulated when it becomes available.
Action: Alistair
 3. A proposal to consider re recognition schemes for both volunteers and volunteer involving groups and organisations (VIOs) – and how these might be incorporated into the Glasgow Community Champions Awards – is outstanding and will be circulated prior to the next meeting. **Action: David**
 4. Ruth and A.N.Other from Volunteer Centre Glasgow will accept Paul Gallagher’s invitation to represent the Group on the SQA Personal Best design task group. **Action: Úna, Ruth**
 5. Volunteering and youth employability: The 5 half day workshops on the SQA Employability Award - funded through Glasgow Community Learning Strategy Partnership’s Upskilling the Community Learning and Development Workforce programme (funded by the Scottish Government) – are going well and there is genuine interest from a range of VIOs and CLD staff in how they might support young people (and others that have been out of the labour market for some time) to achieve the Award. There was some discussion about how support and assessment for the Award could be funded. A copy of feedback on the Glasgow MCMC Partnership reference guide - provided on behalf of the Group and emailed to the MCMC Partnership - was circulated for information.
 - There may be links to the West Youth Employability Group/NEET reduction programmes and the new Regeneration Agency Youth Gateway team provision.
Action: David
 - John R at GCVS met with SDS recently re ILAs and can share the contact details.
Action: Ruth
 - It may be possible to use ILAs to match the SDS administered Flexible Learning Opportunities but this needs verification. **Action: Ruth**
 - It may be worth an approach to SG Commonwealth Modern Apprenticeships programme. **Action: David**
 6. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26th April - 2-5pm at the Albany**

SVF- comparison of current volunteering awards to Framework and Personal Best – Ruth Farquharson (GCVS)

AWARD	Language	SVF	links
SQA Preparing to Volunteer SCQF 3	The language used in the unit descriptor is a barrier in itself. If the target group is aimed at people who have little or no confidence in themselves, then they will have difficulty in understanding the phrasing and terminology used that tells them what they need to do.	Objective 1/Outcome 4/action 7	Links to unit F999 10 Sporting events- volunteering: task 2 Personal Best Assignment 101 – becoming a volunteer
SQA Preparing to Volunteer SCQF 4	The language used at this level is appropriate to the SCQF rating, however it was noted in the minutes 28/10/10 re the QDT that the amount of writing could be a barrier and alternative methods such as photos, videos and leaflet designs should be used to collect evidence.	As above	As above
SQA Preparing to Volunteer SCQF 5	Language appropriate to SCQF rating, would also achieve Core skills and there is an expectation that candidates can produce good written accounts	As above	As above
PB units (JWC)	Language is clear and tries not to use too much jargon. The units are aimed at sporting events, but some of them could be generic and this would include volunteering.	Objective 1/Outcome 3/action4 Objective1/Outcome4/action 7	

<p>Personal Best City and Guilds</p>	<p>Award in England based and devised for London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. This also a Pass/fail award with only 2 attempts at each assignment allowed.</p> <p>Assignment 101 Becoming a volunteer can be linked to employability training as it asks volunteers to complete an application form with a covering letter and produce a CV.</p> <p>Assignment 103 – Emergency and Basic fire awareness. The outcomes regarding this assignment do not seem to correspond with the assessment. For example Understand potential causes of fire and how to respond to a fire emergency and know how to assess an emergency involving people. Assessment is for the volunteer to produce a poster. This is more about First Aid and Fire safety and the assessment should reflect this.</p>	<p>Objective 1/outcome 5/action 8</p>	
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The above are examples only and rely on the candidate/trainee/student who is completing these awards to have a certain level of literacy in particular those at SCQF level 4 and 5. This is because of where this SCQF level sits in the framework, for example equal to General and Credit standard grades. In addition to this, the PB both from JWC and City and Guilds Assessment strategy have the additional barrier and pressure of a pass/fail qualification with only 2 attempts at each assignment before failing award completely.