



 SCOTTISH DRUGS FORUM

SVQ Centre Prospectus

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Our SVQ Centre offers SQA quality assured vocational assessment to the drug, alcohol, and wider social care workforce. Our work-based qualifications are primarily delivered online. They are flexible, with assessment support tailored to suit the needs of learners and organisations.

ABOUT THE SVQ CENTRE



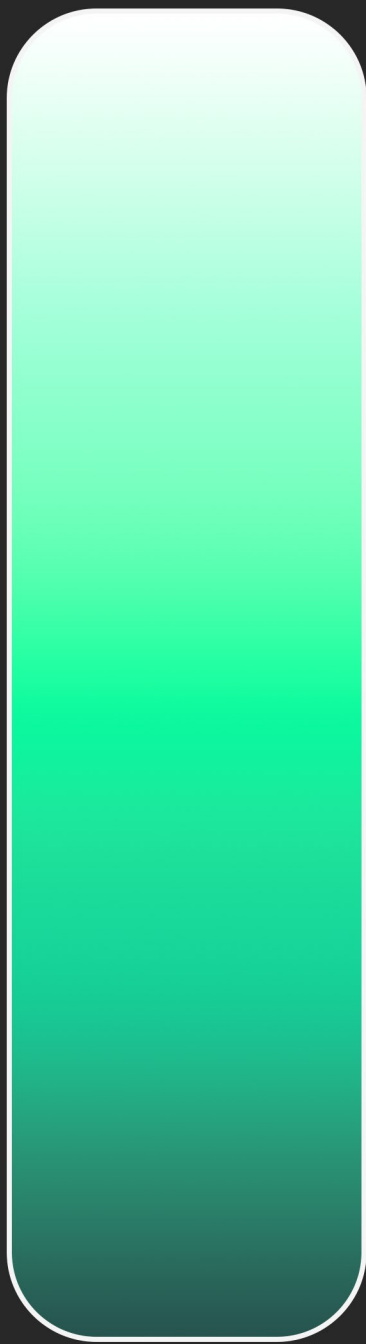
Scottish Drugs Forum's SVQ Centre was launched in 2021 with the long-term aim to meet the qualification needs of the drug and alcohol workforce.

Currently, this need is met primarily through the delivery of Social Services and Healthcare SVQs - the industry standard qualification route into the drug, alcohol, and wider social care field for non-clinical roles, meeting SSSC Registration requirements.

The Centre is also approved by SQA to deliver vocational qualifications in Advice and Guidance, and Community Development, with aspirations to expand the scale and scope of qualifications available with Scottish Drugs Forum.

Our SVQ Centre offers a unique route to achieve professional qualifications, with an organisation that shares the experience, perspectives, and values of the field.

Intakes of SVQ candidates are managed twice a year. This often means that staff have the opportunity to work long term, with SVQ Candidates from across the country and from a variety of services. There are however occasions where delivery can be limited to a large group of staff.



SDF are pleased to offer a growing programme of quality assured vocational learning to the drug, alcohol, and wider social care workforce through our SQA accredited SVQ Centre.

Qualifications Offered

Qualifications Offered: Advice and Guidance

Advice and Guidance (level 3 and level 4)

Our Advice and Guidance qualifications enable learners to demonstrate competence in job-related skills in their particular area of work and expertise. The National Occupational Standards, Assessment Strategy and Award Structure for Advice and Guidance SVQs have been developed by the sector skills council, Skills for Justice.

Candidates will work closely with a dedicated SVQ Assessor who will guide them through the award and support them to build a portfolio of evidence.

Level 3

Areas covered in the level 3 award include:

Communicating with potential clients; supporting clients to make use of services; reviewing your contribution to services; developing and managing interviews with clients; as well as working with clients to develop an action plan for implementation and acting as a mentor to colleagues.

Level 4

Areas covered in the level 4 award include:

Developing interactions with clients, managing personal caseloads, working with clients to develop an action plan for implementation, and reviewing your contribution to services.

The SVQ also covers supporting the safeguarding and protection of people from vulnerable groups, as well as providing support for practitioners and developing service delivery plans.

Qualifications Offered: Community Development

*SAAS Part-Time Fee Grant support is available for this programme

Community Development (level 3 and level 4)

Scottish Vocational Qualifications in Community Development support learners to demonstrate competence in job-related skills in their area of work and expertise.

Candidates will work closely with a dedicated SVQ Assessor who will guide them through the award and support them to build a portfolio of evidence.

The SVQs in Community Development have been developed by the CLD Standards Council for Scotland and are intended for people working with and within different types of community groups with shared interests, needs or demographics.

Our Community Development awards cover areas such as: getting to know communities; supporting inclusive and collective working; self-development; organising community events and activities; and advising on organisational structures using community development perspectives.



Social Services and Healthcare (level 2 and level 3)

Our Social Services and Healthcare SVQs offer learners the opportunity to build a portfolio of work and evidence that demonstrates sound competence, alongside the knowledge required to achieve the current industry standard for the drug and alcohol field, suitable for registration with the Scottish Social Services Council.

*SAAS Part-Time Fee Grant support is available for this programme

Following pre-programme support and induction, candidates will attend an online programme of sessions which cover the knowledge requirements of the SVQ:

SESSION 1: Legislation Relevant to the Social Care field

SESSION 2: Scottish Social Services Council and Health and Social Care Standards

SESSION 3: Challenging Behaviour

SESSION 4: Anti-Discriminatory Practice

SESSION 5: Adult Support and Protection

SESSION 6: Human Development Theories

SESSION 7: Equalities and Recovery

This programme may also be offered and accessed via pre-recorded webinar resources

Qualifications Offered: Social Services and Healthcare

All candidates have one to one support from a dedicated, workplace assessor who will guide them through the award from pre-programme support to completion. Assessment support, including observation elements, all take place online.

“Candidates had very positive feedback about their relationships with their Assessor. They described the initial induction as being thorough and the ongoing communication and feedback as being timeous and useful. Candidates were especially appreciative of the interactions with their Assessor (with) extremely positive feedback, candidates felt well informed and supported before, during and after assessment.”

(SQA External Verification Report, 2025)

Qualifications Offered: Enhanced Skills SVQ Programme Addon-on

Enhanced Skills SVQ Programme Add-on:

Our enhanced skills SVQ programme combines specialist drug and alcohol training, with the Social Services and Healthcare vocational learning experience.

This offers employers the opportunity to purchase SVQ assessment and verification, alongside a selection of specialist training at the same level of SVQ being offered.

Sessions offered cover:

**Professional
Boundaries**

**Enhancing Core
Communication Skills**

Stigma

**Trauma
(informed level)**

This is a unique learning experience, combining specialist training with vocational learning, continually developed to meet current needs and trends.

A minimum of 5 learners are required for the enhanced skills programme.



How to access the SVQ Centre



Whether you're an organisation looking to support your staff to gain qualifications, or an individual learner seeking CPD or a qualification to meet registration requirements, we're here to support you.

To find out more about the SVQ programmes we offer, or to discuss how we can work with you, please contact us at svqcentre@sdf.org.uk.

We'd be happy to talk you through the available options, the application process, funding opportunities and fees, and what to expect. Our team is approachable, experienced, and committed to providing support at every stage - from your initial enquiry right through to the successful completion of your award.

Costs and funding support

Fees to undertake an SQA quality assured course with SDF is determined by the level of qualification and supplementary training requested.

2024-25 fees are outlined below, on a per person basis.

• Social Services & Healthcare Level 2	£1,500
• Social Services & Healthcare Level 3	£2,000
• Enhanced Skills add-on to SSHC	£300.00
• Advice and Guidance Level 4	£1,800.00
• Advice and Guidance Level 3	£1,600.00
• Community Development Level 4	£1,800.00
• Community Development Level 3	£1,600.00

Part time Fee Grants through SAAS are available for the Level 3 Social Services and Healthcare Award, and the Community Development SVQ.

This means that candidates, who earn up to £25,000 per year may be able to apply for a grant which will cover part of the SVQ fees. There is an application process we can offer support to complete and if successful, the grant will be paid directly to SDF as the training provider.

Invoices for course fees are issued following the SVQ induction. If candidates are paying for their SVQ themselves, we can offer the option to pay fees over monthly instalments. To find out more, contact svqcentre@sdf.org.uk

Candidate Testimonials

“I started my SVQ level 2 in Social Services and Healthcare journey with SDF, and I am blown away with the support and knowledge I have received. My assessor went above and beyond to support me. Having just completed the level 2 award and secured a new job, I am starting my level 3 in with SDF now.”

“I would not want to carry this journey with anyone else. The SVQ Centre team are so committed to developing my understanding and they give me the best opportunities for my learning and development.”

“I enjoyed the relevance of the course. I was able to put into practice all the knowledge I had gained all the way throughout the SVQ and use it in my placement. I liked the pace of the learning too.”

“I really enjoyed learning about legislation and policies. It has given me so much more knowledge regarding how the law protects vulnerable people and people working in the services. I felt supported throughout. My assessor is an expert in her field, and I had confidence in the support she gave me. She was also very approachable and friendly. Her support and feedback have given me a boost in my self-esteem.”

“I really enjoyed building new relationships with other SVQ candidates and the teaching was excellent. The information was delivered in a way that I could understand, and the trainer took time to explain things I didn't quite get while also making the sessions fun and engaging. My assessor gave me such great support and took time to give me all the guidance I needed – she has the patience of a saint!”

“My assessor was absolutely fantastic – a very calming influence when explaining anything, a natural motivator. My whole time during the qualification was inspirational as I was guided to question my own thoughts and beliefs in a way that made me analyse my professional conduct and performance and to then take it into everyday practice where I continually want to improve”.

Contact Us

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Details of drug services are on the Scottish Drug Services Directory
www.scottishdrugservices.com

Details of needle exchange services are on The Scottish Needle
Exchange Directory www.needleexchange.scot



