

## **5 SCOTTISH VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION - LEARNING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ASSESSMENT (AN28-2012)**

The Social Work Department's Learning and Workforce Development Service underwent their annual inspection of their Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) 'in-house' Assessment Centre on 17th January, 2012. This inspection is undertaken by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). External audit is carried out by the SQA to ensure quality assessment practices and processes are in place at all levels of the SVQ awards provided by the Social Work Department. Following rigorous internal verification, the SQA confirms that the quality of assessment provision meets criteria within a Quality Framework set by their organisation and also the Care Standards set by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

This has been a year of significant change within the Social Work Department's Assessment Centre involving the introduction of e-learning and e-portfolio systems supplemented with recently devised processes and procedures.

Several areas of good practice have been highlighted by the SQA which are linked to the codes of practice for social services workers set by the Scottish Social Services Council and these are:

- workbooks
- induction packs
- the quality of internal processes
- the underpinning knowledge and links to job roles

There have been no recommendations for improvement.

The assessment of the competence of our workforce is crucial to the quality of service delivery to ensure positive outcomes for service users and their carers. It is therefore important that the Social Work and Health Committee note this excellent report from the Scottish Qualifications Authority and the quality assurance practices provided by the staff within the Assessment Centre.