



National Advocacy Qualification

Award project

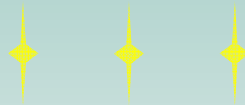
Oct 10th 2007

Welcome to the fourth Award Update.

Since the last bulletin update the project has been busy consulting with stakeholders and fine tuning what the qualification should look like.

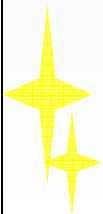
This bulletin will show you what modules the qualification will offer and you will hear about the findings from the recent consultation. You will also find out more about how the training materials will be developed.

Update



The last few months have been spent in consultation with the advocacy sector - to hear from the people who will be most affected by the introduction of an Advocacy Qualification. Turn over to read more about the main findings from the events.

The other significant development is the commitment from the Department of Health and Welsh Assembly Government to fund the development of training materials to accompany the course. More information can be found on page 3.







Consultation Events



An important task of the AWARD project was to consult with the advocacy sector to find out what advocacy employers thought about the length and level of the course and to listen to potential learners about what they would like to see being taught.

6 consultation events were held during June and July across England and Wales with 160 people (mainly advocates, advocacy managers and advocacy trainers) attending. We explored issues such as the type of qualification (VRQ versus NVQ), the level and length of the course and the content of the modules. The main findings from these events included:

- Support to develop a Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ)
- Preference that the qualification has a modular structure
- Demand for a choice of levels to be offered
- Preference for the Qualification to be offered at Level 3
- Demand for specialist pathways in IMCA, IMHA, children's advocacy, adult advocacy, ICAS and advocacy management
- Demand for the course to be delivered locally




The next stage is to consult with service users and commissioners. A number of events have been arranged with service user groups within mental health, learning disability and with children and older people. Commissioners will also be approached to explore what they think about the qualification.

What the course will look like;

There will be four core modules in generic advocacy. Each module will 'stand alone' which means the learner will receive a certificate for each module they finish or they can complete all four to achieve the Level 3 Advocacy Qualification.

The four modules will be;

- The Purpose and Principles of Independent Advocacy
- Providing Effective Independent Advocacy Support
- Maintaining the Advocacy Relationship
- Understanding and Responding to the Needs of Different Advocacy Groups



Each module will take the equivalent of 2 taught days and it is expected that the learner will need to complete additional work outside of the two days.



What the course will look like ...

In addition to the four modules, learners will have a choice of 5 specialist modules, each taking 3 - 4 days each;

- Independent Mental Health Advocacy
- Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy
- Independent Adult Advocacy
- Independent Children's Advocacy
- Independent Advocacy Management

All the work will be assessed and accreditation will be given to successful learners by the Awarding Body. It is expected that service users will be involved in the delivery of the course and we are currently investigating the possibility of learners having to undertake 'real life' advocacy work as part of a placement.

People who would like to undertake the statutory role IMCA and IMHA will have to complete the specialist module before they can practice, but for everyone else it will be optional.

NB If you are already an IMCA and have completed the Action 4 Advocacy IMCA course there is no requirement for you to complete the IMCA module in order for you to practice IMCA - the Act says that you must complete a DH approved course which at the moment is the A4A training. In the long term the qualification will be largely based on the material and will replace this course.





Commissioning Training Materials



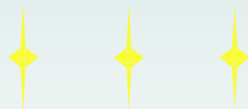
An important goal of the AWARD project is to raise the consistency of advocacy training across England and Wales. This will largely be achieved by producing core, and national approved, training materials.

The materials will be free to access and available via the internet - we are not expecting to publish hard copies.

The Dh and WAG will commission;

- a) training materials to help trainers deliver the course
- b) resources to help learners achieve the qualification

It is expected the advert and tender will be available mid October. Interested organisations or individuals should look in the Guardian Society or contact Kate Mercer for further information.



If you would like to make any comments or have questions about the project, please contact

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