QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

2026

In 2008, Macmillan Centre for Learning (MCL) was borne out of a desire to meet the needs of the social care sector, identifying continuing professional development and offering diversity, and flexibility, in the meeting of statutory training requirements. We are Qualifications Scotland approved to deliver statutory qualification to the Social Care sector.

The Centre offers the opportunity to participate in a mode of learning that motivates the learner to reach their potential and develop their skill and for the benefit of the service. Through traditional methods of training and the integration of technology we offer the support and encouragement any learner needs as they embark upon a new journey of discovery.

The Centre also uses the open-source Moodle facility to provide resources within a Virtual Learning Environment that will be accessed by Learners only. This facility offers Learners access to video and audio teaching to support any direct teaching that has been set in place for them. A range of subjects have been identified by Qualifications Scotland as the key components of Social Care; therefore, workbooks have been made accessible for Learners to enable a depth of understanding of key concepts and theories to underpin the experience and practice the Learners bring.

For those who may be studying elsewhere or even searching for knowledge resources for their professional development, subscription to the Knowledge Hub is available. Scan the QR code to access:

 or go to:
https://knowledgehub.macmillancentreforlearning.co.uk/login

For more information and access to a video explaining the Knowledge Hub see page 4.

"Miseris sucerrer disco" To Learn to help those in need
The motto…is a quotation from the Latin poet, Virgil: "Miseris Succurrere Disco," which can be translated as "I learn (or endeavour) to succour the distressed." or, more simply, "I learn to help those in need."
(http://winaims.com/cmnm/Miseris.asp)

The use of the Macmillan Clan motto is significant as it represents a philosophy that is at the heart of the service the Centre provides. Within this philosophy are three components:

1. The responsibility of the individual to learn, "I learn", indicates a process through which you are willing to attain knowledge and skills. Such development requires many skills such as communication in its' many forms, Information Technology and all this offers regarding resources and collaboration. Incorporated into this is the motivation required to push you to achieve. A clear focus on the outcome of your learning is essential. Not only is there the drive for self-achievement; there is also recognition of the gains for those you work for, the clients.

2. The next component is that of "to succour" or "to help". This component represents the variety of knowledge, skills, methods and concepts relating to working with people. All of us have a particular leaning towards being treated in certain ways. Such treatment can be found, for example, to relate to the Scottish Social Service Council Codes of Practice and the National Care Standards. An understanding of the basic ingredients of interactions enables the concepts of Respect and Dignity and this is significant to the helping process.

3. "…the distressed" or "those in need" identifies to whom we apply the "help". As the issue of care can apply to a wide section of society it is important to understand the "need" they have. Through careful assessment of all that this person is, we construct an image of wishes and needs, which may only be met through appropriate application of knowledge, skills, methods and concepts.

Readiness for Assessment

Macmillan Centre for Learning offers a range of Qualifications Scotlandqualifications for the Social Care Sector. Access to the qualifications will be based on the Applicants readiness for assessment. Employers have a responsibility to prepare staff who need to access qualifications for Scottish Social Service Council Registration requirements. Section 3 of the Codes of Practice 2024 identifies these responsibilities.

It is during the Induction phase that the primary training takes place supporting staff to gain critical sector knowledge and skill. This includes ensuring staff are ready to embark upon Scottish Vocation Qualifications at the level appropriate to their social care task. Specific training such as Moving and Positioning, Administration of Medication alongside other organisational mandatory training is the bedrock of the Induction process. This should also include the organisation's value base with a focus on frameworks such as the SSSC Codes of Practice and the Health and Social Care Standards.

As **SVQ courses are not training courses** it is essential that employers support staff to attain the knowledge, skill and equipment required to complete their Award.

The HNC Social Services: Group Award provides the underpinning knowledge for the Social Care sector whose practice is at SCQF Level 7. Further information can be found further into this document.

Macmillan Centre for Learning (MCL) carries out a "Readiness for Assessment" process as part of the Qualification Application Process to assess the learner's capacity, and readiness for embarking on a qualification at SCQF level 7. Employers have a responsibility under section 3 to Provide learning and development opportunities to enable workers to strengthen and maintain their skills, knowledge and practice, namely in

3.1 "Provide good quality accessible induction and learning and development opportunities to support workers to carry out their role safely and effectively"

3.3 "Contribute to education and learning, providing effective workplace placements, assessments and practice learning opportunities"

3.4 "Support workers who need to be registered with the SSSC to meet and maintain their conditions for registration and the requirement for continuous professional learning and development" and

3.7 "Provide effective and regular supervision that enables workers to develop and improve practice through reflection and feedback." (SSSC, 2024)

Such responsibilities ensure workers progressing toward registration required qualifications are adequately prepared with necessary skills.

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Qualifications Scotland set out five core skills that are essential for effective assessment of Qualifications.

The five Core Skills are:

Communication
Communication skills underpin personal, social, learning, and working activities. They are essential in clarifying one's own thoughts, in interacting and conversing with others, in expressing thoughts and in conveying information, feeling and opinions.
Framework Communication framework   (104 KB)
Components
Oral Communication
Written Communication
Numeracy
Numeracy skills are necessary for coping with the demands of everyday life. People need to be comfortable with numbers, graphs, symbols, diagrams and calculators.
Framework Numeracy framework   (84 KB)
Components
Using Graphical Information
Using Number
Information and Communication Technology
Information and Communication Technology focuses on the ability to use IT in ways that are useful in work and the home. It is not about developing IT specialists.
Framework Information and Communication Technology framework   (76 KB)
Components
Accessing Information
Providing/Creating Information
Working with Others
Working with Others develops the skills needed to co-operate with others in learning and working situations to identify and achieve shared goals.
Framework Working with Others framework   (77 KB)
Components
Working Co-operatively with Others
Reviewing Co-operative contribution
Problem Solving
Problem Solving develops the skills needed for tackling issues and problems in personal, social, vocational and occupational contexts.
Framework Problem Solving framework
Components
Critical Thinking
Planning and Organising
Reviewing and Evaluating

It is crucial that these "Core Skills" are embedded prior to embarking on courses for MCL use Information Technology in the form of online systems, Moodle and Microsoft Education, to present resources, conduct Tutorials and Support Meetings as well for the uploading of Assessment material.
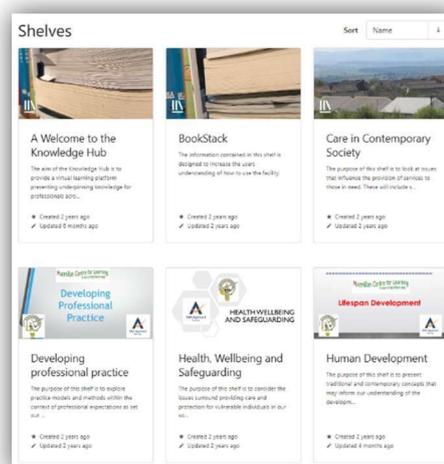

For information go to:
https://youtu.be/CY730qnKHUQ

Macmillan Centre for Learning has created resources for learners on Social Care courses. These resources were well used by learners, and we have decided to share them with you for a yearly subscription of £50. For the price of a couple of books, you will find live teaching videos, workbooks and a whole lot more.

https://knowledgehub.macmillancentreforlearning.co.uk/

Moodle- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

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The VLE is a store house of information and resources for the qualification learners are working towards. The cost of this is included in the course costs.

It can be accessed at the following site address:

http://candidateaccess.macmillancentreforlearning.co.uk/
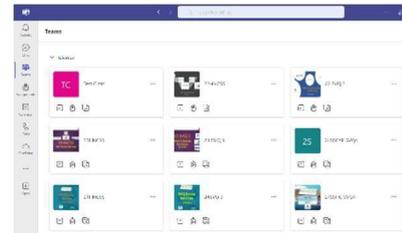
Microsoft Education

Learners on MCL courses are provided with Macmillancentreforlearning.co.uk Microsoft Education accounts with online access to Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook as well as the Teams App which can be downloaded.

Microsoft Teams

Teams is the system used to collate the evidence gathered for qualifications and to communicate with learners throughout. Entry into the system will be opened to learners who complete a successful interview where they demonstrate the readiness and appropriateness of the HNC Social Services to the expectations of their

Social Care responsibilities and of the Scottish Social Services Council registration requirements.

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Macmillan Centre for Learning courses

SVQ Social Services and Healthcare SCQF level 9- Group Award Code: GH61 24

The Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 9 allows candidates to demonstrate competence in job related skills in their particular area of work.

This qualification has been designed in partnership with the Sector Skills Council, Skills for Care and Development to ensure relevance to the sector.

SVQs are based on National Occupational Standards. Qualifications Scotland works in partnership with other organisations to ensure that National Occupational Standards (NOS) are relevant to the current and future needs of Scottish industries. These are currently under review.

It is a requirement by the SSSC that everyone employed in this capacity should have achieved or be working towards achievement of this qualification.

This SVQ is suitable for:
- individuals who are currently in employment and who wish to obtain a formal qualification
- people who are employed in the health and social care sector in a senior and/or management role.

Access
Entry is at the discretion of the centre following a Readiness for Assessment process

Candidates should be in a job or placement where they are carrying out relevant tasks and responsibilities which allow then to gather the required evidence.

The SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 9 consists of 4 mandatory Units and 4 optional Units. For details of the Units making up the SVQ, please refer to the Qualification Structure
Found at: https://secure.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Information_Sheet_SSHC_Level_4.pdf

SVQ Social Services and Healthcare SCQF level 7- Group Award Code: GH60 23

The Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 7 allows candidates to demonstrate competence in job related skills in their particular area of work.

This qualification has been designed in partnership with the Sector Skills Council, Skills for Care and Development to ensure relevance to the sector.

SVQs are based on National Occupational Standards. Qualifications Scotland works in partnership with other organisations to ensure that National Occupational Standards (NOS) are relevant to the current and future needs of Scottish industries.

It is a requirement by the SSSC that everyone employed in this capacity should be working towards achievement of this qualification

This SVQ is suitable for:
- individuals who are currently in employment and who wish to obtain a formal qualification
- people who are employed in the health and social care sector in a supervisory role.

Access
Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

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Candidates should be in a job or placement where they are carrying out relevant tasks and responsibilities which allow then to gather the required evidence.

The SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 7 consists of 4 mandatory Units and 4 optional Units. For details of the Units making up the SVQ, please refer to the Qualification Structure Found at: https://secure.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Information_Sheet_SSHC_Level_3.pdf

SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) SCQF level 9- Group Award Code: GH5X 24

The Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF level 9 allows candidates to demonstrate competence in job related skills in their particular area of work.

This qualification has been designed in partnership with the Sector Skills Council, Skills for Care and Development to ensure relevance to the sector.

SVQs are based on National Occupational Standards. Qualifications Scotland works in partnership with other organisations to ensure that National Occupational Standards (NOS) are relevant to the current and future needs of Scottish industries. This SVQ is suitable for:

• individuals who are currently in employment and who wish to obtain a formal qualification

The target audience for the SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) at level 9 are people who are employed in the childcare sector in a senior and/or management role. It is a requirement by the SSSC that those employed as a Manager of a Residential Child Care Service, and as a Manager of a Residential School Care Accommodation Service should have achieved or be working towards achievement of this qualification. This qualification meets the SSSC practice registration requirement for managers in the following services:
• Managers of a Residential Child Care Service
• Managers of a Residential School Care Accommodation Service

Access Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Candidates should be in a job or placement where they are carrying out relevant tasks and responsibilities which allow them to gather the required evidence.

The SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF level 9 consists of 4 mandatory Units and 4 optional Units. For details of the Units making up the SVQ, please refer to the Qualification Structure Found at: https://secure.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Information_Sheet_SSCYP_Level%204.pdf

SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) SCQF level 7- Group Award Code: GH5W 23

The Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF level 7 allows candidates to demonstrate competence in job related skills in their particular area of work.

This qualification has been designed in partnership with the Sector Skills Council, Skills for Care and Development to ensure relevance to the sector.

SVQs are based on National Occupational Standards. Qualifications

Scotland works in partnership with other organisations to ensure that National Occupational Standards (NOS) are

relevant to the current and future needs of Scottish industries. This SVQ is suitable for:

☐ individuals who are currently in employment and who wish to obtain a formal qualification
The target audience for the SVQ in Social Services (Children and Young People) are people who are practitioners in early years settings and residential/daycare for children and young people. It is a requirement by the SSSC that everyone employed in this capacity should be working towards achievement of this qualification.

Access
Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Candidates should be in a job or placement where they are carrying out relevant tasks and responsibilities which allow then to gather the required evidence.

The SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF level 7 consists of 4 mandatory Units and 4 optional Units. For details of the Units making up the SVQ, please refer to the Qualification Structure
Found at: https://secure.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Information_Sheet_SSCYP_level3.pdf

HNC Social Services Group Award code: GK89 15

The HNC in Social Services (SCQF level 7) will equip candidates to work effectively in a range of care settings with a variety of service users. Learners will gain an understanding of the values and principles of social care and will learn how to integrate those values with the necessary skills and knowledge. Areas covered include care in contemporary society, leadership, health wellbeing and safeguarding, lifespan development theoretical approaches, promoting health, safety and security in the work setting, developing your practice through reflection and learning, promoting effective communication, and care practice.

The HNC in Social Services at SCQF level 7 is suitable for people who work in any setting where care and support is being provided for individuals and groups. This can be residential or day-care settings, home care, community or youth justice projects, or mental health projects.

Learners who are employed would normally be in workplaces as described above. The HNC is also very suitable for people who want to learn about care and seek employment in this sector after achieving the award.

Access
Access is at the discretion of each centre.

Models

MCL delivers the HNC Social Services using a Blended Learning and Distance Learning approach.
The Blended Learning approach involves learners accessing online resources for a period of 3 weeks prior to scheduled Tutorials. This process is labelled as the Pattern of Academic Study (PAS). This is a tried and test

study pattern that the majority of learners have found works. There are some who find different patterns and, as long as the outcome is positive, this is permissible. If, however, consistent issues arise MCL will direct the learner to the PAS, encouraging them to follow this as agreed to in the Candidate Contract.

The Distance Learning approach requires the learner to have a capacity for self-directed study as they access the resources with no set Tutorial. There will be access to a Tutor through Teams communication within their Private Teams Channel where the learners can ask for clarification of concepts or assessment requirements. An Assessment Schedule will be set in accordance with the Assessment Policy, ensuring that the same opportunity is offered to both Blended and Distance learning approaches with no advantage or disadvantage. This means the same timeframe for Assessment will be adopted regardless of the approach.

Progression and employment
The HNC Social Services may assist learners to articulate into second year of a range of BA degree programmes, or the planned PDA Residential Child Care at SCQF level 9. Learners need 120 credits at level 7 in order to progress to level 8.
Group Award Specification HNC Social Services Specification
Found at: https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/HNCSocialServicesSpecificationGK8915.pdf

HNC Social Services: GR8V 15
HNC Social Services (Theory only)
The HNC in Social Services (SCQF level 7) will equip candidates to work effectively in a range of care settings with a variety of service users. Learners will gain an understanding of the values and principles of social care and will learn how to integrate those values with the necessary skills and knowledge. Areas covered include care in contemporary society, leadership, health wellbeing and safeguarding, lifespan development theoretical approaches, promoting health, safety and security in the work setting, developing your practice through reflection and learning, promoting effective communication, and care practice.

The HNC in Social Services at SCQF level 7 is suitable for people who work in any setting where care and support is being provided for individuals and groups. This can be residential or day-care settings, home care, community or youth justice projects, or mental health projects.
Learners who are employed would normally be in workplaces as described above. The HNC is also very suitable for people who want to learn about care and seek employment in this sector after achieving the award.

Route 3 — theory-only certification
Route 3 has been created to help learners who intend to progress their learning. The new theory-only group award is: GR8V 15 HNC Social Services (theory only). The theory-only framework has been created without the three SVQ units. In their place are three additional theory-only optional units to help ensure the overall award constitutes a 12-unit HNC.

For GR8V 15 the additional theory-only units are:
DE3R 34 Personal Development Planning
DH3P 34 Protection of Individuals from Harm and Abuse
HF2A 34 Understanding Personal and Professional Development

Learners will automatically be certificated for the theory-only group award when they complete it. For learners who plan on completing the three practical SVQ units later, centres should leave open their entries for GK89 15 and the practical units. This means that these learners will be certificated for the group award when they complete these units.

Certificates for learners who are moving on
Centres should ensure that learners who are progressing their learning are registered for GK89 15 and GR8V 15 (the theory-only group award). If there are learners who do not expect to complete the practical units later, centres should withdraw their entries for GK89 15 and any units they will not complete. This will allow these learners to be certificated for the units that they have completed.

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Registering with the SSSC under Route 3

Anyone can register with the SSSC and, if they do not hold the appropriate qualification, they will be registered with the condition that they achieve an appropriate benchmark qualification within five years. This timeframe has been changed and Employers should check to the SSSC to see the specific conditions for Registration for the role the employee has. Go to [Help with Register parts, fees and qualifications - Scottish Social Services Council(https://www.sssc.uk.com/registration/help-withregister-parts-fees-and-qualifications/](https://www.sssc.uk.com/registration/help-withregister-parts-fees-and-qualifications/)

The theory-only frameworks, on their own, are not benchmark qualifications because they do not meet SSSC's criteria and principles since there is no observed and assessed practice — which is evidenced through the SVQ units. Learners taking this route can still apply for SSSC registration, however, they will be set a condition to complete an appropriate qualification within 5 years. For the mandatory practical SVQ units of GK89 15 to be current, SQA recommends that they are completed within two years.

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Qualification Timeframes and Costs

Qualification	Timeframe	Cost
SVQ Social Services and Healthcare SCQF level 9- Group Award Code: GH61 24	18 months	£2,000.00
SVQ Social Services and Healthcare SCQF level 7- Group Award Code: GH60 23	10 months	£1,230.00
SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) SCQF level 9- Group Award Code: GH5X 24	18 months	£2,000.00
SVQ Social Services (Children and Young People) SCQF level 7- Group Award Code: GH5W 23	10 months	£1,230.00
HNC Social Services Group Award code: GK89 15 Blended Learning model	12 months may change with holiday periods	£2,955.00
HNC Social Services Group Award code: GK89 15 (HN Units only) Blended Learning model	12 months may change with holiday periods	£2,435.00
HNC Social Services Group Award code: GK89 15 Distance Learning Model (Online)	12 months may change with holiday periods	£1,955.00
HNC Social Services: GR8V 15 (Theory only)	12 months may change with holiday periods	£1,800.00
SVQ 3 (5 Units to complete SVQ 3 Awards)	6 months	£900.00

Macmillan Centre for Learning takes a flexible approach when creating a schedule for groups and will consult with organisations regarding how to best meet their needs whilst maintaining academic and Registration standards.

SVQ level 7- Social Services (CYP) and Social Services and Healthcare: Example Schedule To support the Sector and Candidates, there will be a flexible approach to SVQ Support meetings. The timeframe must be adhered to though. We will offer options in the week the SVQ Support Day is scheduled. Candidates must ensure they are available to meet with Assessors once a month to discuss feedback on SVQ material produced and plan for further SVQ accounts.

SVQ 3 Support Days	
Individual Induction	Week beginning 20/01/25
1	Week beginning 17/02/25
2	Week beginning 17/03/25
3	Week beginning 14/04/25 (Interim Portfolio Verification)
4	Week beginning 12/05/25
5	Week beginning 16/06/25
6	Week beginning 14/07/25
7	Week beginning 11/08/25
8	Week beginning 22/09/25
9	Week beginning 13/10/25 (Final Portfolio Verification) SVQ 3 Ends

SVQ Level 9 – Social Services (CYP) and Social Services and Healthcare: Example Schedule

SVQ 4 Support Days			
Individual Induction	Week beginning 20/01/25		
1	Week beginning 17/02/25	10	Week beginning 10/11/25
2	Week beginning 17/03/25	11	Week beginning 15/12/25
3	Week beginning 14/04/25	12	Week beginning 12/01/26
4	Week beginning 12/05/25	13	Week beginning 09/02/26
5	Week beginning 16/06/25 (Interim Portfolio Verified)	14	Week beginning 09/03/26
6	Week beginning 14/07/25	15	Week beginning 13/04/26
7	Week beginning 11/08/25	16	Week beginning 11/05/26
8	Week beginning 15/09/25	17	Week beginning 15/06/26
9	Week beginning 13/10/25	18	Week beginning 13/07/26 (Final Portfolio Verification) SVQ 4 Ends

HNC Social Services: Example Schedule

MCL Qualification Application Process for HNC Social Service		
Application Form (Microsoft Forms)	Date in by:	13/09/2024
Written Task 2024 (On VLE)	Completed by	27/09/2024
Interview week	Week beginning:	07/10/2024
Teaching and Assessment Schedule		
Tutorials on Microsoft Teams 9:00 to 12:00	Tutorial date	Assessment Due
Induction	11/11/24	
Developing Care Practice	02/12/24 09/12/24	Assessment 1 12:00 on 13/01/24
Lifespan Development	03/02/25 10/02/25	Assessment 2 12:00 on 03/03/25
Care in Contemporary Society	24/03/25 31/03/25	Assessment 3 12:00 on 21/04/5
Promoting Positive Behaviour	05/05/25 12/05/25 19/05/25	Assessment 4 12:00 on 16/06/25
Summer		
Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding	18/08/25 25/08/25	Assessment 5 12:00 on 15/09/25
Leadership Starts with Me	06/10/25 13/10/25	Assessment 6 12:00 on 03/11/25
Understanding Loss and the Process of Grief	24/11/25 01/12/25	Assessment 7 12:00 on 22/12/25
The Graded Unit is not a "taught" Unit. It is a project that utilises all previous subjects. Students are to use previously taught Units to complete the Graded Unit project. It is to be completed in order. Parts one and two must be assessed as "Passed" before continuing onto the next part.		
Graded Unit Part One: Planning Stage Draft	19/01/26	Part One Final 12:00 on 26/01/26
Graded Unit Part Two: Developing Stage Draft	16/02/26	Part Two Final 12:00 on 23/02/26
Graded Unit Part Three: No Draft		Part Three Final 12:00 on 16/03/26

Any enquiries regarding these SQA Qualifications should be directed to Malcolm Macmillan at macmillancentreforlearning@gmail.com or call on 07719435907.

We look forward to hearing from you