GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD IN MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT AT SCQF LEVEL 7

This PDA is awarded on the successful completion of the two Units:

- ✓ Mental Health Peer Support: Recovery Context
- ✓ Mental Health Peer Support: Developing Practice

This information is intended to give potential candidates a brief overview of the main aspects of this award. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact your approved learning provider or QS direct.

Mandatory Unit Title	Code	SCQF credit points	SCQF level	QS credit value
Mental Health Peer Support: Recovery Context	F9DW 34	8	7	1
Mental Health Peer Support: Developing Practice	F9DV 34	8	7	1
Total Credits		16		2

WHO IS THIS AWARD FOR?

The Professional Development Award in Mental Health Peer Support at SCQF level 7 has been developed to facilitate learning for individuals who wish to act in the role of peer support workers either in a voluntary or paid capacity. As such, it is intended to become the primary qualification for people working in this role.

WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THIS AWARD?

The award may be undertaken by anyone wishing to develop their skills in this area. The only conditions of entry are that candidates should have personal experience of mental health challenges and be able to provide evidence of good written and oral communication skills (at least SCQF level 5). This will be tested during an interview situation and checked through production of relevant qualifications. Candidates wishing to undertake this award should also be able to demonstrate awareness of and active involvement in mental health support either in the capacity of paid employment or as a volunteer.

WHAT CAN THIS AWARD LEAD TO?

Successful completion of this award may lead to opportunities for employment as a peer support worker. It may also lead to you being able to gain access to a range of other related mental health and social service qualifications. In personal terms, successful completion of a course such as this can lead to increased self-confidence and personal and professional competence.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The award is made of two units each of which requires about forty hours of study. This will mainly be undertaken in face-to-face sessions in Mindspace. Each group learning session will be approximately 3-hours, with each unit lasting 10-12 weeks. You will also need to carry out some individual research and study. You should also be prepared to make a commitment to studying in your own time as well as the time you spend in the group. Writing of the assignments also takes some time and this varies from one student to another. As this is a Level 7 course, the candidate is expected to research, read and draw on resources beyond the class/tutorial materials and critically engage with them.

I HAVEN'T STUDIED FOR A LONG TIME, WILL I GET HELP?

Candidates who are 'returning to study' will receive support to help them get up to speed and will have continuing academic guidance as required.

HOW DO I ACHIEVE THE UNITS?

Unit 1— Mental Health Peer Support: Recovery Context

Outcome 1 You will be assessed by an assignment of approximately 1000 words presented in essay format which demonstrates your ability to meet the evidence requirements.

Outcomes 2 and 3 You will produce a portfolio of evidence which covers the Evidence Requirements of both Outcomes. This portfolio should be no more than 1,500 words. Portfolio evidence should relate to real work activity and be authenticated by an appropriate person.

Unit 2 — Mental Health Peer Support: Developing Practice

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 You will be assessed holistically by presenting a portfolio of evidence using real work experience. You will undertake an analysis of your use of theories and concepts to support people to identify their desired outcomes, set their own goals and recognise their own expertise. You are asked to relate learning to real work practice and are expected to produce evidence relating to the role and function of peer support. The total word count of this portfolio should not exceed 2, 500 words.