

Core Skills Actions

The SDS “Core Skills Effective Practice Workshop” was held on 29th November 2018. Providers who attended discussed effective delivery for core skills, and what key actions they would like from SDS and other partner bodies.

Effective practice providers took away

- Moving away from ‘have to’ by explaining how core skills can benefit learners.
- Don’t overcomplicate. Keep it simple and relate to real life.
- Explain early to learners how core skills will be delivered.
- Discuss core skills with learners at every review so learners are continuously reminded of what needs to be completed.
- To individualise core skills, learners should be consulted about them in the same way as they are with optional units.
- As the learner progresses explain when they are doing tasks that will be used as evidence for core skills.
- Involve employers from the start so they understand how they will be involved in delivering core skills.



What providers said they want from SDS, Education Scotland, SQA Accreditation and Awarding Bodies

- More guidance on whether their materials are fit for purpose.
- Resource packs by sector to support contextualisation of core skills, particularly relating to numeracy.
- Host more events like the core skills session. Ideally, all providers will have the opportunity to attend these events.
- Individual events for each sector/type of provider.
- SDS Skills Investment Advisers to review core skills EV reports.
- Attending these events could be linked to staff CPD requirements.
- SQA website could be friendlier and have updated content.
- SQA Accreditation to produce guidance on sign posting and mapping, perhaps through a workshop.
- Contextualise the external verifiers CPD towards the industry/sector they are verifying, so they have background in their industry.
- For conversations to be encouraged at the school level.
- Put descriptor back on the front of each unit.

What work will be progressed in 2019/20

- SQA Accreditation is undertaking a thematic review of workplace core skills delivery and will share the findings and recommendations of its report once available

