



## **QUALIFICATIONS SUPPORT TEAM for the HN SCIENCE Portfolio of Awards**

**Minutes of meeting held at 10am on 3 December 2024 (via Microsoft teams)**

### **Present:**

Anu Mittal (North East Scotland College), Conor Larkin (Glasgow Clyde College), David Whitley (External Verifier), Doug Fraser (Senior External Verifier), Jonathan Gillies (SQA), Laura Young (North East Scotland College), Michael Balzo (New College Lanarkshire), Michael McKenna (SQA), Sandra Spence (West College Scotland)

### **Welcome and apologies**

Jonathan welcomed all QST members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Marcelle McIlroy and Yvonne Bayne.

### **1. Actions from last meeting**

All actions were confirmed as being completed.

### **2. Subject guidance 2024-25**

No issues were raised and QST members confirmed that the subject guidance continues to provide the flexibility required.

The subject guidance is now considered to be mainstream and it will be retained for future sessions.

### **3. NC in Applied Sciences**

A proposal was previously discussed to potentially increase the choice of mandatory science units. Six mandatory credits from two sciences would still be required. However, the choice of science units could be increased to give greater flexibility.

Jonathan confirmed that all centres had been contacted regarding the potential change to the frameworks. A limited response had been received but there were no objections to potentially increasing the choice of mandatory units.

QST members noted that they also had no objections to this potential change but they were keen for further information on the units that could potentially contribute to the mandatory section. Sandra Spence agreed to pull together a list of potential units for consideration.

#### **4. Low uptake qualifications**

Jonathan advised that the following qualifications had been identified as having low uptake:

- HND in Applied Chemical Sciences (GK6H 16)
- SVQ in Scientific, Technical and Formulation Processing (GP42 22)
- SVQ in Scientific, Technical and Formulation Processing (GP43 23)

Jonathan noted that engagement will take place with all centres and key stakeholders to raise awareness of the plan to withdraw these qualifications. The engagement with centres will be via SQA Co-ordinators/college quality teams.

#### **5. AOB**

Jonathan highlighted that SQA are currently recruiting for an External Verifier for HN Physics. Further information and an online application form can be found via the hyperlink below:

- <https://appointeeopportunities.sqa.org.uk/vacancy/external-verifier-hn-physics-574600.html>

Jonathan advised that the next meeting of the HN science QST would be arranged for February/March 2025.

## ACTION GRID

Action	Date completed
Sandra Spence to pull together a list of additional units that may contribute to the mandatory section of the NC in Applied Sciences frameworks	
Jonathan to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting	