Policies and Standards Committee (PSC)

Wednesday, 28th November 2018

Denzille Lane, Dublin (11:am – 1:30pm)

Present: Anne Walsh - Committee Chair

Barbara Kelly - QQI Executive Member

Bryan Maguire - QQI Executive Member

Aileen Ponton - International Expert

Lucien Bollaert - International Expert

Bryan Fields - National Expert

Daire Keogh - National Expert

Roisin Sweeney - Head of Awards Standards, QQI

In attendance: Alga Mulhall - QQI Secretary (Acting)

Sue Hackett - QQI (Item 7.1)

Carmel Kelly - QQI (Item 7.1)

Orla Lynch - QQI (Item 7.2)

Apologies: Anne Marie Ryan - National Expert

Niamh O'Reilly - Board Member

In opening the meeting, the Chair welcomed all members to this Policies and Standards Committee (PSC) meeting.

1   1.1 Declaration of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest expressed by any member.

2   Minutes of Meeting of the Policies and Standards Committee (PSC) of 19th Meeting, 27th September 2018

The Minutes of the Meetings of the 19th Meeting, 27th September 2018, were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters Arising from Minutes

No Business.

4.1   Standards

4.1   Level 5 Occupational First Aid

- Explanatory Memorandum

The Committee was advised that the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has decided, for operational reasons, to recognise the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) First Aid Responder (FAR) course instead of the QQI Level 5 Occupational First Aid (OFA) component award.

As a result of the HSA change in recognition, the QQI executive proposed that the level 5 OFA component be set for deactivation. This is to avoid potential confusion over the status of the component relative to health and safety in the workplace.

The Committee noted that final certification for the OFA award will be June 2019. This is to facilitate learners on fulltime programmes leading to major awards. A communique on the deactivation will be prepared for providers.

The Committee Approved the deactivation of the level 5 component at a date no later than 12 June 2019.

4.2   English Language Teaching Standards

- Explanatory Memorandum

- Revised ELT Standards

The Committee noted the revised standards for English language teaching. Through the Programme Validation process issues were identified by the validation panel in relation to understanding and implementation of the ELT standards by providers. In looking at the feedback received from the validation panel, QQI considered these are legitimate concerns and has taken the approach of reviewing the 2014 ELT standards.

The Committee noted that after agreement with the original development group that the changes were appropriate and fit for purpose. The draft revised standards were put on QQI's website for consultation and stakeholders were invited to comment.

The Committee considered the proposed changes to the standards and following discussion the Committee ADOPTED the revised standards for English Language Teaching.

5.   Policy

No business

6.   Green Papers

No business

7.   White Papers

7.1   **Approach to the Development of Policy and Procedures on the International Education Mark**

- Explanatory Memorandum

Appendix 2 Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Higher Education and Training to International Learners

Appendix 3 Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Education and Training to International Learners: English Language Education

The Executive made a presentation updating the committee on the current status of the International Education Mark (IEM), explaining that there is a two-pronged project approach:

(1) An English Language Education (ELE) Sector Specific IEM and (2) a Higher Education (HE) Sector specific IEM.

The Committee discussed the respective approaches that are being explored – in ELE there is consideration of inclusion of a site visit supported by documentation verification whereas in the HE arena there is a consideration of linking IEM to the existing CINNTE review process.   The Executive is considering adding an intervening review piece to offset any risk that may be associated with the extended time periods between CINNTE Reviews.

Discussion took place around the clarification of the IEM being assigned to the Programme or Provider. The Committee noted the challenges for QQI in managing the IEM from current resources. The Executive advised that the costs of this process will be carried out on a cost recovery basis.

Information was provided on the broader context i.e. the amendment to legislation, the expected timeline and effect that it will have on this project.

The Chair thanked the executive for their informative presentation and requested that the Committee be regularly updated on the progress of the projects within the Amended Legislation Programme.

7.2 Statutory Guidelines for the National University of Ireland (NUI) for the Review of its Linked Providers

- Explanatory Memorandum

- Statutory *Guidelines* for the National University of Ireland (NUI) for the Review of its Linked Providers

The Committee Noted the draft white Paper 'Statutory *Guidelines for the National University of Ireland (NUI) for the Review of its Linked Provider'.* The White Paper has been developed in consultation with the National University of Ireland and it is expected that NUI will have regard for these Guidelines in the establishment of their procedures for the review of linked providers. QQI is seeking feedback from stakeholders on the proposed policy contained within this white paper and requested the PSC approval to publish for consultation purposes.

The Committee discussion on the document included comments on definition of a linked provider, NUI's responsibilities in relation to a linked provider's research activities and maintaining the integrity of awards recognised on the National Framework of Qualification. Following discussion, the Committee approved the '*Guidelines for the National University of Ireland (NUI) for the Review of its Linked Providers'* for publication as a white paper for consultation.

Approval will be sought from the QQI Board for a change to Terms of Reference of PSC to include approval or otherwise of statutory Guidelines for the review of linked providers by the NUI.

8. **Inclusion of Non-Formal Learning on the Framework (SCQF) including Overseas Qualifications and those of Professional and Employer Organisations**

The Presentation focused on the structure and processes of credit rating bodies within the SCQF. The SCQF is designed to support lifelong learning by enabling employers, learners and the public understand the full range of Scottish qualifications. It is notable that in Scotland there is no legislation linked to the framework, it's an entirely voluntary process. The quality assurance processes were broadly outlined, and a range of material provided which set out to varying levels of detail, the consistent process used by all credit rating bodies.

8.2   New Publications since last PSC Meeting

QQI Policy Restatement: Policy and Criteria for Access, Transfer and Progression in Relation to Leaners for Providers of Further and Higher Education and Training:

The Committee members' attention was brought to the new publications from QQI since its last meeting in September 2018. Links were provided to the above publication.

8.3   **PSC Meetings Schedule:**

The Committee Agreed the following dates for 2019:

25th June 2019

 3rd October 2019

28th November 2019

In closing the Chair thanked the members of the Committee and the QQI Executive for their contributions and participation in the meeting.