

Happy Easter from SRS Skills!

SRS Skills
Bulletin

April
2026



In this bulletin, we're pleased to share updates, achievements, and upcoming opportunities, while also taking time to recognise the hard work and dedication of everyone.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. We hope this Easter period brings you rest, positivity, and a renewed sense of purpose.

We look forward to the months ahead and all that we will achieve together.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful Easter.

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Meet our new Assessor/Verifier: Mike Riddell



My background is a mix of Education, Early years and Adult health and social care. I have worked as a Teacher, trainer, care worker, support worker and manager. These experiences have lead me to become a full time SVQ Assessor. I love that I can combine my knowledge and experience to support others to complete their qualifications.

Outside of work... I do more work. I love my job so much that I do some extra work on weekends and evenings. But I still make time for the things I enjoy. I like my holidays. Time to unwind and shut off with the family, you might also find me at a concert or the theatre seeing a show.

I enjoy sports, (watching more than playing), Football, tennis and athletics are my favourites.

Our Qualifications

We offer tailored SVQs in Social Services and Healthcare designed for a range of roles:

SVQ Level 2 (6-9 months) - £1,200

For: Entry level care workers

- Focuses on basic care practices, communication, and supporting individuals' needs.
- Are support workers/care assistants in care homes/care at home services for adults.

SVQ Level 3 (9-12 months) - £1,500

For: Experienced practitioners

- Builds on core skills and includes person centred care, safeguarding, and working with complex needs.
- Are in a supervisory role.

SVQ Level 4 (12-15 months) - £1,800

For: Supervisors and senior staff

- Develops leadership, strategic planning, and advanced professional practice.
- Are employed in a senior/supervisory and/or management role.

Supervisory Qualification (3 months) - £400

Two level 4 units to meet the SSSC supervisory requirements for level 3 of at least 15 credits.

We are pleased to introduce two new qualifications

Assessor Award L&D9Di (4-6 months) - £1000

This Award enables you to plan, carry out and review assessments for learners undertaking SVQ or vocational qualifications.

Verifier Award L&D11 (4-6 months) - £1000

This qualification is for experienced Assessors who wish to take responsibility for internally verifying assessment decisions within their centre.



**Qualifications
Scotland**
Approved Centre

The SQA is now Qualifications Scotland

For employers and candidates, it's important to be clear: nothing changes about the value of the qualifications.

All SQA qualifications – past, present and future – remain fully valid, trusted and recognised. They are now delivered by Qualifications Scotland, Scotland's new national awarding body, created to strengthen support for learners, centres and employers.

Qualifications Scotland continues to uphold the same rigorous standards and quality assurance that employers rely on when recruiting and developing talent. By working closely with industry experts, employers, schools and colleges, qualifications are designed to reflect real workplace needs and support meaningful career progression.

For candidates, this means clear, trusted pathways that recognise knowledge, skills and progress.

For employers, it means confidence that qualifications continue to meet high standards and align with the skills needed now and in the future.

At our centre, we welcome this evolution and remain committed to supporting both learners and employers through high-quality, trusted qualifications.

Candidates Success Stories

What our SVQ candidates say about their experience.



SVQ Level 2

I chose to start my SVQ to support my career development and continue building my knowledge and skills. Although I was initially apprehensive about the written work after being out of education for some time, I was motivated to improve my practice and stay up to date.

Balancing the SVQ alongside work and being a mum to a toddler was challenging, but I managed this by prioritising my time and staying focused on my goal. The qualification encouraged valuable self-reflection and helped me strengthen my practice.

I received excellent support from my assessor, who was always available to guide me and answer any questions. This made it much easier to balance work, study, and home life. Completing my SVQ has boosted my confidence, improved my practice, and opened up new opportunities for progression. I would highly recommend it to others—the support from the SRS SVQ Centre was fantastic throughout.

I'm proud to have achieved my SVQ and excited to continue delivering high-quality care and exploring future opportunities. NG



SVQ Level 2

Thank you so much for your kind email. I appreciate you taking the time to get in touch with me to officially congratulate me on the completion of my SVQ.

My SVQ journey was incredibly rewarding and enlightening and this was in no small part due to the exceptional guidance, encouragement, and steady support I received from Graeme! He made a tremendous difference in my SVQ journey and helped me stay confident and focused throughout the entire process.

Thank you again for your warm words and to the wider SRS team for being part of such a positive learning experience. BB

Candidates Success Stories

What our SVQ candidates say about their experience.



SVQ Level 3

"Completing my SVQ Level 3 has been a rewarding experience that strengthened my confidence, knowledge, and practice as a Care Coordinator, particularly in medication, safeguarding, and person-centred care.

The support from the SRS Skills Department was instrumental, with clear guidance and consistent encouragement throughout.

My assessor was especially patient and supportive, providing valuable feedback that helped me stay on track and meet the required standards. I'm grateful for the support provided and would highly recommend the SVQ to others in health and social care." E SB



SVQ Level 2

Completing my SVQ has changed the way I work by putting all the knowledge and skills into everyday care to the best of my ability. It has helped me gain more confidence in my work and opened up opportunities like doing more levels on my SVQ to achieve a higher position in the future with the company.

My assessor supported me by answering any questions I had or anything I struggled with which really helped me balance work and study.

I'm proud to have completed my SVQ because i have always wanted to gain this qualification for my future. I am proud of myself and so happy. I'm excited to keep developing and gaining more qualifications to improve my future and make something of myself that my family can be proud of. RP

SSSC

Continuous Professional Learning (CPL)

CPL helps you maintain and develop the skills and knowledge needed for your role and is a requirement of SSSC registration under the Code of Practice.

You will confirm completion as part of your annual declaration (no upload required). A random sample of registrants will be selected each year for CPL endorsement and may be asked to review their learning with their supervisor.

CPL is not just about formal training courses

Examples of CPL include:

- **Certificated learning:** qualifications, SVQs, HNC/HND units, certificates, diplomas, and degrees.
- **Courses, workshops and webinars:** learning delivered by your own or other organisations, including online learning.
- **Learning about your organisation:** reading policies, procedures and guidance to understand expected standards.
- **Learning about the wider sector:** visiting other services, speaking with professionals in different roles, and understanding how others work.
- **Policy and legislation:** keeping up to date with national developments through websites, media and discussions with colleagues.
- **Learning from others:** shadowing, observing practice, and conversations that help you reflect and improve.
- **Group learning:** team meetings, supervision, networking, conferences and shared learning discussions.
- **Preparing for new roles or tasks:** reading guidance, research or speaking with colleagues to build knowledge.
- **Reflective learning:** supervision, mentoring, Open Badges and thinking about how learning has changed your practice.
- **Supporting others:** mentoring, coaching, buddying, or helping colleagues and new staff to learn.
- **Reading and listening:** books, journals, articles, podcasts and other professional resources.
- **TV or video learning:** relevant programmes or documentaries that develop understanding and best practice.

SRS Skills

Resources for your Core Learning Elements

Find the learning you need to do for your role and the stage of your career on the [CPL Website](#) You can also [Download the Quick Guide](#)



Rights based and ethical practice



Communication and relationships



Wellbeing and Support



Protection



Knowledge for my role



Reflective practice



Leadership and Quality assurance



Funding Your SVQ

We want to make it as easy as possible for staff to develop skills, build confidence, and progress their careers in health and social care.

Take advantage of our interest-free payment plans, available regardless what level of qualification you are doing!

If you are Undertaking your SVQ Level 3 or Level 4

We are registered with SAAS as a Part Time Training Provider

Those earning under £25,000 per year and meeting SAAS requirements can access funding to complete their SVQ Level 3, even if their SSSC registration indicates Level 2, participants can choose to undertake Level 3 instead.

This is perfect for:

- ✓ Part-time staff
- ✓ Relief workers

[Overview of Part-Time Funding](#)



TOP 5 TIPS FOR STARTING YOUR SVQ JOURNEY



BE CLEAR IN YOUR GOALS

Take time to understand why you're doing your SVQ. Knowing what it will help you achieve keeps you motivated when challenges arise.



BE CONSISTENT, NOT PERFECT.

Progress beats perfection. Completing small sections regularly is more effective than waiting for the "perfect" time or mindset.



USE REAL WORK EVIDENCE

Your daily tasks already hold the evidence you need, reflecting on real practice deepens understanding and speeds up completion.



COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR ASSESSOR

Your assessor is there to support you, not judge you. Asking questions early prevents delays and builds confidence.



BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN CAPABILITY

Many candidates start with doubt but achieve great results, trust the process and your experience; you know more than you think.



Managing your SSSC Registration

To stay registered and continue working, you must complete your annual declaration and keep your Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) up to date. You must also adhere to several other things:

Annual declaration: Around your registration date, confirm or update your personal and employment details and pay your annual fee through your MySSSC account.

Follow the Code of Practice: Meet the standards, behaviours, and values set out in the Code of Practice for Social Service Workers, both in and outside work.

Social media: Maintain professional boundaries and follow your employer's guidance when using social media.

Raising concerns: Report any workplace concerns safely, helping protect the public.

Qualification conditions: If registered with a qualification condition, complete the required qualification within the time given and notify us once achieved. ***This is your responsibility, not your employers or the centre you undertook your SVQ qualification with.***

Keep your details up to date: Update your personal, employment, health, or qualification information in MySSSC as soon as anything changes, including:

- Home address, phone, or email
- Criminal convictions or disciplinary matters
- Health issues affecting your role
- Job changes
- Newly gained qualifications
-

Claim tax relief on registration fees: You may be able to claim tax relief on your SSSC registration fees, including backdated claims for up to six years.

- Use form P87 via the gov.uk website or contact HMRC directly for guidance.
- If you complete a self-assessment tax return, claim relief on the employment page.
- For details on eligibility, allowable expenses, and backdated claims, see the HMRC website.

Important: You must pay your registration fee in full to the SSSC before claiming any tax relief. We cannot deduct tax relief from your fee.

Palliative & End of Life Person-Centred Support Training

CPD Certified | £50 per person

Equip your staff with the skills and confidence to deliver compassionate, high-quality care at one of the most important stages of life.

Our Palliative and End of Life Person-Centred Support training course provides essential knowledge and practical tools to support individuals living with life-limiting conditions and those approaching the end of life—ensuring care is always delivered with dignity, respect, and empathy.

What participants will gain:

- A clear understanding of person-centred palliative and end of life care
- The ability to recognise when an individual's needs are changing
- Practical experience using key tools, including:
 - Supportive and Palliative Care Indicators Tool (SPICT)
 - Palliative Performance Scale (PPS)
 - Pain and symptom assessment tools
- Skills to communicate sensitively and effectively with individuals and families
- Knowledge of advance care planning, advance directives, and future care plans
- Greater awareness of emotional, cultural, and spiritual needs at end of life

Why choose this course?

- ✓ CPD Certified – supports ongoing professional development
- ✓ Affordable and accessible at just £50 per person
- ✓ Delivered by experienced professionals
- ✓ Practical, relevant, and immediately applicable in care settings

Who should attend?

This course is ideal for:

- Health and social care staff
- Care home teams
- Support workers and community staff
- Anyone involved in providing end of life care



Invest in compassionate care

Give your team the tools to make a meaningful difference when it matters most.

Book your place today or contact us for group bookings and availability.

Moving & Handling Training

Full Day - £75 & Refresher - £45 per person

Our Moving & Handling training equips health and social care staff with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to carry out safe, effective, and person-centred handling practices in the workplace.

The course focuses on promoting safety, dignity, and independence, ensuring both staff and service users are protected from unnecessary risk or harm during all moving and handling activities.

Delivered in a practical and engaging format, the training combines essential theory with hands-on learning to support safe practice in real care environments.

Key areas covered:

- Principles of safe moving and handling
- Legislation, responsibilities, and best practice guidance
- Risk assessment and safe working procedures
- Safe use of equipment, including hoists, slings, and transfer aids
- Safe techniques for assisting individuals with mobility needs
- Promoting dignity, independence, and person-centred care
- Reducing the risk of injury to staff and service users

Why this training?

- Practical, hands-on learning approach
- Relevant to real-life care settings
- Builds confidence and promotes safe working practices
- Supports compliance with health and safety standards
- Delivered by our experienced trainer



Training Testimonials

Palliative & End of Life Care Training

What our Participants told us

Feedback from 20 participants was overwhelmingly positive, with almost all rating the session 5/5 (Excellent).

Participants described the training as clear, engaging, and highly relevant, providing practical tools and the confidence to support individuals at end of life.

The interactive environment allowed time for reflection and questions, with many feeling better prepared and more confident in their roles.

The trainer was praised for being knowledgeable, approachable, and delivering a high-quality learning experience.

Book Your Training

Give your team the confidence to deliver compassionate, person-centred care when it matters most.

Book your place today – limited availability

Moving & Handling Training

What our Participants told us

Feedback from 46 participants was overwhelmingly positive, with most rating the training very good to excellent.

Participants found the training practical, engaging, and easy to follow, helping improve technique and understanding of best practice.

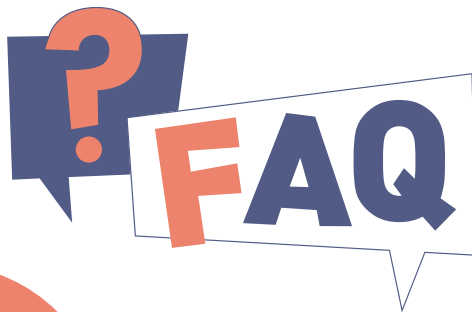
The course supported safer working and risk reduction, with many reporting increased confidence in their day-to-day roles.

The trainer was praised for clear instruction and a supportive, well-structured approach.

Book Your Training

Give your team the skills to work safely and deliver effective care.

Book your place today – limited availability



Q1: How do I know which SVQ level is right for me?

A: It depends on your current experience and career goals. Level 2 is ideal if you're building foundational skills, Level 3 is for advancing your competence, and Level 4 focuses on management or specialist roles. Our team can help you assess your starting point and recommend the best pathway.

Q2: Are there flexible payment options for SVQs?

A: Yes! We offer interest-free, flexible payment plans to help learners manage the cost of their qualifications. You can spread payments over the duration of the course without extra fees.

Q3: How long does it usually take to complete an SVQ?

A: Completion time depends on the level, your experience, and how quickly you submit assessments. On average:

Level 2: 3–6 months

Level 3: 6–9 months

Level 4: 9–12 months

Q4: Will completing an SVQ help me progress in my career?

A: Yes! SVQs are nationally recognised and highly valued by employers. They can open doors to promotions, higher pay, specialist roles, or assessor/verifier opportunities.

Easter Fun!

We love a good fun fact, so here are some Easter based trivia we think you will love.

1. The name Easter owes its origin from Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess who symbolizes hare and egg. Eastre is often spelt Eostre, Oestre or Ostara. Ostara is also a northern European name for Astarte, which means “womb”, and is another name for Venus, the goddess of love, passion, and creativity.

2. The art of painting and decorating eggs is known as “Pysanka”. The brightly coloured eggs are symbolic of spring flowers and the new beginnings previously mentioned. It is said that King Edward I of England may also have contributed to the tradition of decorating eggs to celebrate Easter. In the 13th century, Edward I ordered 450 eggs to be coloured and decorated with gold-leaf. They were presented as Easter gifts to the rest of the royal household. In Christianity, Easter Eggs are coloured red to symbolise the blood of Jesus. Originally, egg dyes were made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices.

3. The exchange of eggs for Easter dates back to a springtime custom older than Easter itself! Eggs were given as a symbol of fertility and rebirth (remember in point 1 that Eastre/Ostara means “womb”?). This can be traced back to the Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and the Romans.

4. Chocolate eggs are said to have originated in France and Germany in the early 19th century but here in the UK it was J. S. Fry & Sons Limited who produced the first chocolate egg in 1873. John Cadbury made his first ‘French eating Chocolate’ in 1842 but it was not until 1875 that the first Cadbury Easter Eggs were made.

Moving and Handling

Y M O E A I N I S O F F M S G N I L S Q D P N L
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 W U H Z B K A I O P O V O O I O F X K U L O F H

Musculoskeletal Injury

Handling Plan

Standaaid

PUWER

Hoist

Human Rights Act

Legislation

TILEEO

LOLER

AARR

Risk assessment

Slide Sheet

Loops

Sling

MHOR

Providers we support with SVQ and Training



Contact Us:



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