

# Merry Christmas from SRS Skills!

## SRS Skills Bulletin

December 2025



As we celebrate this festive season, we'd like to extend our warmest wishes to all our candidates and partners. Thank you for your trust, collaboration, and continued support throughout the year.

May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, and special moments with loved ones. We look forward to achieving new milestones together in the coming year.

The SRS Skills Team

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# An Introduction to Our Team

Our experienced care-sector Assessors and Internal Verifiers bring decades of combined, hands-on expertise from across Scotland's care landscape. Their insight is built on real frontline experience, ensuring the highest standards of quality, relevance, and support for every learner.



Gail Fergusson  
SVQ  
Lead/Coordinator



Graeme Taylor  
Assessor/Internal  
Verifier



Laura McEwan  
Assessor/Internal  
Verifier



Karen Taylor  
Assessor/Internal  
Verifier



Amy Allan  
Assessor



Carol Stuart  
Training Lead

# Our SVQ's

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.

# 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**

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
- ✓ Staff who are not in a supervisory role



## Changes Are Coming: Qualifications Scotland!

### Mark the Date:

- **2nd Dec 2025** – Qualifications Scotland becomes a legal entity. This allows the appointment of its Board and the setup of new governance under the **Education (Scotland) Act 2025**.
- **1st Feb 2026** – Fully operational! From this day, **all new qualification certificates will feature the Qualifications Scotland branding**.

This exciting change ensures that Scottish qualifications remain **trusted, recognised, and backed by experienced care-sector professionals**. Stay tuned as we move into this new chapter of quality and excellence!



## ★ Big Win for SRS Skills! ★

We're **thrilled** to announce that our recent **Systems Verification Visit** achieved **High Confidence** ✓ **across all areas – with no actions required!**

This follows our **June Qualification Verification Visit**, where we also received **High Confidence** throughout.

### **SQA Systems Verifier says:**

*"You've built an experienced and enthusiastic team, supported by effective digital systems that make collaboration and record-keeping seamless. Your QA system fully meets SQA requirements. Congratulations on the high confidence outcome and best wishes for continued success and growth."*

### **A massive well done to the team!**

Their professionalism, dedication, and commitment to excellence **shine in everything they do**. Let's keep this momentum going as we continue to grow!

## SQA High Confidence for Systems Verification

Massive thanks to the team for their hard work and commitment to excellence, proud of what we've achieved and excited for what's ahead!



Management of a  
Centre



Internal Assessment  
& Verification



Resources



External  
Verification



Candidate Support



Data Management

# How to Balance Working and your SVQ Study



You don't need long study sessions every day. Even 20 focused minutes reviewing your evidence or reflecting on your practice adds up over time.



Most of your SVQ evidence comes from what you already do in your role. Keep a small notebook or phone note handy to jot down examples as they happen, it'll save you stress later.



If things get tough, let them know. They're there to support you and can help adjust timelines or suggest alternative evidence methods.



Your wellbeing matters just as much as your qualification. Take breaks, get rest, and remember, self-care helps you stay focused and motivated.



Finished a unit? Had positive feedback? Tick it off and feel proud. Every small achievement is a step closer to completing your qualification.

## Becky's SVQ Journey

### **Why I Started My SVQ:**

I decided to start my SVQ because I wanted to have more knowledge about medication, communication, health & safety and personal care for career development.

### **Key Moment:**

One key takeaway or moment that stands out from my journey is my assessor Gail. She was absolutely fantastic with the amount of support and guidance I received from her. Made me feel so at ease, comfortable and believed in me.

### **My Journey:**

During my SVQ, one challenge I faced was getting enough information into the different sections and I overcame it by asking Gail for advice and support.

### **Support Along the Way:**

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

### **Advice for Others:**

If you're thinking about starting your SVQ, my advice would be to definitely do it. There's lots of advice and support throughout your journey and can achieve a good qualification for your future.

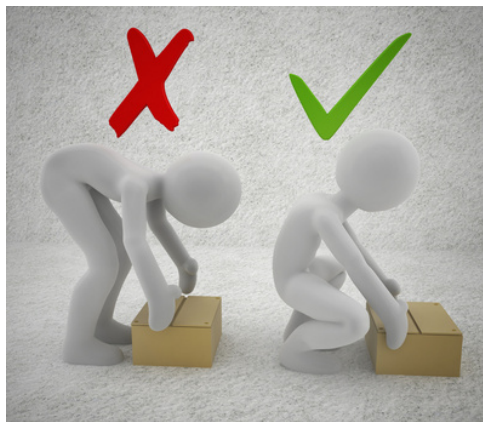
### **How It's Made a Difference:**

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.



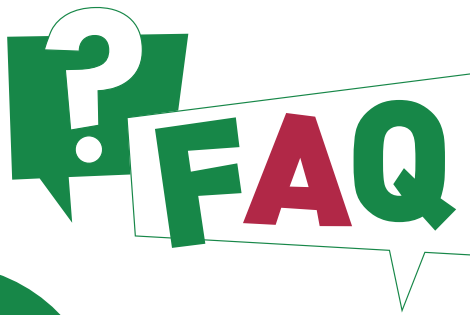
## Our Manual Handling Training

Delivering effective Moving and Handling training is essential to ensuring safe, high quality care across health and social care settings. Our training focuses on developing staff confidence and competence in using correct techniques to reduce the risk of injury for both individuals receiving care and the workforce providing it. By investing in regular, practical training, we continue to promote a safer working environment and support the dignity, comfort, and wellbeing of those we care for.



Contact us to enquire about our  
Full Day Course - £75  
Refresher - £37.50





Q: Why is training so important in health and social care?

A: Training ensures staff have the skills and confidence to provide safe, compassionate, and effective care. It improves outcomes for service users and strengthens the whole team.

Q: Who can benefit from these programs?

A: Everyone, from new recruits to experienced staff can gain practical knowledge, refresh existing skills, and stay up to date with industry standards.

Q: What makes your training different?

A: Our courses are hands-on, tailored to real-world care environments, and focused on building confidence as well as competence.

Q: How can organisations get started?

A: Simply get in touch with our team we'll help you identify the right programs for your staff and guide you through a smooth enrolment process.

# Christmas Fun!

We love a good fun fact, so here are some Christmas based trivia we think you will love. Use them at your Christmas parties and impress your family and friends!

- |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. The first ever Christmas tree wasn't a tree at all, it was in fact made of dyed goose feathers and came from Germany                                                                  |
| 2. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was created by the US store Montgomery Ward as part of their Christmas promotion. The song that accompanies the story was recorded in 1949             |
| 3. Santa Claus was first used by the company 'Coca Cola' as a winter promotion                                                                                                           |
| 4. Every Christmas 10 million turkeys are cooked and consumed in the UK alone                                                                                                            |
| 5. The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings on Christmas Eve came from 12th century French nuns who left socks filled with tangerines, nuts and fruit at the houses of the poor. |
| 6. Riga in Latvia was the home to the first decorated Christmas tree in 1510                                                                                                             |





# Christmas

## Word Search



Find the words below in the word search.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | S | A | S | T | O | C | K | I | N | G | F |
| E | L | F | B | D | E | C | F | O | G | M | I |
| L | E | W | R | E | A | T | H | R | H | I | R |
| L | I | S | N | O | W | M | A | N | I | S | E |
| J | G | M | Q | S | R | H | J | A | K | T | P |
| K | H | T | N | U | Z | O | N | M | P | L | L |
| F | G | V | Y | O | X | L | S | E | R | E | A |
| H | E | U | Z | A | P | L | Q | N | U | T | C |
| D | I | C | A | N | D | Y | Z | T | V | O | E |
| P | R | E | S | E | N | T | A | W | B | E | C |

BELL  
CANDY  
PRESENT  
FIREPLACE

ELF  
WREATH  
STOCKING  
MISTLETOE

HOLLY  
SLEIGH  
SNOWMAN  
ORNAMENT



## Where our Candidates Work



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### Contact Us:



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