

## **PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (PAEC)**

**Thursday 15 July 2021 at 2pm**

**via Microsoft Teams**

Note of the 54th meeting of the QQI Programmes and Awards Executive Committee held via Microsoft Teams, at 2pm on **Thursday 15 July 2021.**

### **Present:**

Dr Pdraig Walsh (Chairperson)  
Ms Andrina Wafer  
Ms Angela Lambkin  
Dr Bryan Maguire  
Ms Marie Gould

### **In attendance:**

Ms Therese Masterson (Key Executive)  
Ms Janet Cawley (Secretary)  
Ms Carmel Kelly  
Mr Walter Balfe  
Ms Deirdre Conlan  
Ms Ann Murphy

### **Apologies:**

Ms Barbara Kelly  
Dr John O'Connor

## **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

## **2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24 JUNE 2021**

**2.1** The Minutes of the PAEC Meeting held on 24 June 2021 were approved by the Committee.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Any matters arising were covered within agenda items and were discussed during the meeting.

## **4. NOTE OF THE MEETING, REPORT FOR THE BOARD**

### **4.1 Note of Meeting of 24 June 2021**

The Committee APPROVED the Note of the PAEC Meeting of 24 June 2021 for publication on the QQI website.

## **5. PROGRAMME VALIDATION APPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Further Education and Training (FET) Programmes**

### 5.1.1 Education and Training Boards

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

A decision to develop programmes in Early Learning and Care was taken by the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) in 2020. These programmes were developed in a shared process, led by **Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB (DDLETB)** on behalf of, and with the support of, the 16 Education and Training Boards.

The application consisted of the following two (Shared Curriculum) proposed programmes for validation:

- Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care (NFQ Level 6, 120 FET credits)
- Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care (NFQ Level 5, 120 FET credits)

All 16 ETBs applied for validation of both programmes. The same panel evaluated the validation applications from all 16 ETBs.

### 5.1.2 Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.2.1 PG24595, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits  
PG24596, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

### 5.1.3 Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.3.1 PG24597, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits  
PG24600, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

### 5.1.4 City of Dublin Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.4.1 PG24613, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits  
PG24622, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

### 5.1.5 Cork Education and Training Board

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.5.1 PG24613, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits  
PG24622, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.6 Donegal Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.6.1 PG24593, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24615, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.7 Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.7.1 PG24603, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24614, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.8 Kerry Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.8.1 PG24626, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24627, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.9 Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.9.1 PG24605, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24611, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.10 Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.10.1 PG24601, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24602, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.11 Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.11.1 PG24590, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24617, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.12 Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.12.1 PG24599, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24604, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.13 Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.13.1 PG24610, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24612, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.14 Louth and Meath Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.14.1 PG24607, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24616, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.15 Mayo Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.15.1 PG24623, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24625, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.16 Tipperary Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.16.1 PG24585, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24619, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

#### **5.1.17 Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated and the detailed report presented. The Committee APPROVED the validation of the following programmes:

- 5.1.17.1 PG24589, Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits
- PG24591, Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care, Level 5, Major Award, 120 Credits

## **5.2 Higher Education and Training Programmes – Programme Validation**

No Business

## **5.3 Devolution of Responsibility for Validation Sub-Processes**

No Business

## **5.4 Validation of Research Degree Programmes**

No Business

## **5.5 Apprenticeship Programmes**

No Business

# **6. REVALIDATION**

## **6.1 Application for Extension of Validation Period**

### **6.1.1 Education and Training Boards**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB), on behalf of seven ETBs, formally requested an extension of validation of the programme below to September 2021. DDLETB advised that due to the extensive work undertaken to develop the new shared curriculum Early Learning and Care programmes, it has not been possible to undertake a review of the Digital Media Production programme and prepare for revalidation. It is planned that the review and revalidation of the programme (across all the applicant ETBs) will take place in time for a September 2022 intake. Cork ETB has indicated that it will co-ordinate the process for review and revalidation of the programmes.

#### **6.1.1.1 Shared Curriculum - Advanced Certificate in Digital Media Production, Major Award, level 6, 120 Credits**

- PG23420 - Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB)
- PG23428 - Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB)
- PG23431 - City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETb)
- PG23421 - Cork Education and Training Board
- PG23424 - Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETb)
- PG23426 - Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETb)
- PG23505 - Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETb)

The Committee APPROVED the request to extend the last intake date of the programme above to September 2021.

## **6.2 Applications for Revalidation**

### **6.2.1 Dublin Institute of Design**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated. The Committee APPROVED the revalidation of the following programmes for five years from September 2021 subject to any special conditions of validation, and all the conditions from the current validation policy listed in the proposed Certificate of Validation:

**7. FOLLOW-UP ON PAEC RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS IN PANEL REPORTS**

No Business

**8. QA FOR COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PROVISION**

No Business

**9. APPROVAL OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES FOR LEGACY PROVIDERS (RE-ENGAGEMENT)**

No Business

**10. ROUTINE STANDARDS ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

No Business

**11. CHANGE OF STATUS OF LEGACY HET AND FET PROVIDERS**

No Business

**12. REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMES AND AWARDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (PAOC)**

No Business

**13. UPDATE ON COVID-19 CONTINGENCY FOR SOLAS**

**13.1 Update on Covid-19 contingency for SOLAS**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated.

In June 2021, SOLAS updated QQI on craft apprenticeship training and planning in place for an emergency delivery response as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite several measures put in place, the impact of the pandemic has been an exponential increase in apprentices delayed in completing their off-the-job training. At the end of May 2021 there were in excess of 10,000 apprentices delayed, with over 6,000 of these waiting for phase 2 training. The highest waiting lists are for the electrical, plumbing, carpentry and joinery programmes.

The executive acknowledges that considerable work has been done and will continue to be done by SOLAS and the various stakeholders to reduce the number of apprentices waiting to complete their off-the-job training.

The Committee NOTED that the executive considers these measures are in place for an emergency delivery response as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.