

## **Scottish Manual Handling Passport Scheme**

The SSSC is a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and was established in 2001 by the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act. We are responsible for registering people who work in social services, regulating their education and training and the collation and publication of data on the size and nature of the sector's workforce.

Amongst other key duties and functions the SSSC is responsible for the maintenance of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) in Social Services and Healthcare. The NOS are often delivered as Scottish Vocational Qualification however they may also form the basis for standalone training and awards. The awards are available from the following link:

<http://workforcesolutions.sssc.uk.com/NavOnline/>

Manual handling standards (or Moving and positioning as it is now called) are integral to the standards of practice required by individuals who are registered by the SSSC and who are working at SVQ levels 2,3 and 4 in the sector.

Generally this covers those working in Care Homes and Care at Home services as well as working with children and young adults with complex physical needs.

The core standards of the Scottish Vocational qualifications include a mandatory unit entitled 'Support the Health and Safety of yourself and individuals' and optional specialist standards such as 'Contribute to Moving and Positioning individuals' are necessary standards of practice which the SSSC believes complement the technical elements of moving and handling.

Importantly they are undertaken in the context of the rights and entitlements of individuals who are receiving care services. The premise of these is treating individuals with dignity and respect. There is a gap in the moving and handling passport in relation to individuals, their protection, rights and dignity.

The SSSC also recommend that reference is made within the Passport to the Codes of Practice for Social Services Workers and Employers. The Codes are available from the following link: <http://www.sssc.uk.com/Codes-of-Practice/sssc-codes-of-practice-for-social-service-workers-and-employers.html>.

Individual SSSC registrants may be brought to a Fitness to Practise hearing if they fail to comply with the Codes of Practice. For example, a registrant may be referred after failing to treat individuals with dignity and respect that necessarily underpin the technicalities of moving and handling. Any revision to the passport needs to take account of how the individuals undertaking the activity will be judged in the context of the Codes of Practice.

The SSSC would be happy to advise how best to ensure a good fit with the NOS and Codes of Practice to ensure best practice sits alongside the safety of the individual worker.

We hope these comments are helpful. We are happy to provide further information if required.

Scottish Social Services Council  
July 2014