

“Blood donation and transfusion”

(C Grade)

Introduction

The evidence was submitted using SQA templates, with assessor and verifier comments which were detailed and very informative. The final assessor report was also included with a verification note highlighting the quality assurance process throughout the project.

There were no formal, timetabled meetings between the candidate and the assessor, but regular meetings were held, usually organised by the candidate to chart progress and use the assessor’s experience for guidance.

The teaching staff internally verified each other’s candidates to enhance the quality assurance within the centre, and provide additional support to all the candidates.

The centre was very effective at using links outwith the school environment and actively encouraged the candidates to organise external contacts with the relevant experts in their chosen field. This has greatly enhanced the learning and confidence of all the candidates and is highly commended.

Proposal

The title and outline were very clear and the justification given for the project indicated a well thought out vision for the project and initial contacts. There are very strong links to the subjects studied and future career choice of nursing, giving the project a firm base from which to begin.

The candidate showed a very mature self awareness when discussing her skills and areas for development such as experimental work, as well as highlighting areas where she was quite confident, for example negotiating skills. It would have been helpful if she had included her analysis under the individual skill headings.

The assessor comments at this stage clearly show supportive discussions have taken place and the candidate feels confident to proceed. This is further enhanced by the internal verifier confirming the suitability of the project and opportunities for the candidate to develop.

Although not mandatory, a short explanation of the relevant broad context(s) provides a focus for the candidate and is also helpful for the assessor. The candidate has satisfied the C grade and A grade criteria in this first stage of the project.

Plan

The plan was clear but the timeline was scant and lacked any detail. There was no Gantt chart or equivalent produced; the timetable for the project consisted of bullet points for key stages and dates. There was no consideration given to other commitments such as prelims, UCAS application, other school projects, although there is a brief mention of them in the contingencies section. The timeline only barely meets the C grade criteria.

The plan also showed updates for the mentor / assessor which was encouraging, and overall the plan was in line with the initial proposal.

The candidate clearly identified a range of research methods, although these were not expanded upon, so were not awarded the A grade criterion. Although the internet is a useful source of information, it should not be the only source and candidates should attempt to access a range of sources, which involve them in making contacts outside of their own centre, possibly carrying out some primary research, thereby experiencing richer learning and improving their communication/interpersonal skills.

The dependencies discussed were heavily reliant on the blood transfusion service and the contingencies if this did not work out were not very strong, but initial contact had already been made, and the candidate seemed confident in receiving some support from them. As the candidate has not given enough consideration to these areas none of the A grade criteria has been met.

In skills development, it would have been helpful to know how the candidate planned to monitor these, perhaps a reflective log or diary or blog would have been a useful tool.

The assessor and verifier comments here are once again supportive and provide thoughtful advice as the project moves forward.

Presentation

There was a brief discussion of the presentation although some information on feedback from the audience and teachers would have been helpful to give a more complete picture. This can be achieved using feedback sheets or using a web page; such feedback is helpful in both the project evaluation and self evaluation.

The candidate also handed out leaflets to ensure the presentation message was taken away, which was well thought out.

The assessor comments here give some guidance on the presentations, which is welcome. Clearly all of the C grade criteria have been satisfied and one A grade criterion, 'skilful and creative use of resources etc'.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the project is descriptive, and is almost a record of the project. It does pinpoint strengths and weaknesses but could have been more reflective in considering the many areas of success in the project as well as thoughts on possible improvements and challenges faced. The candidate acknowledges the support of the transfusion service and their reliance on this for the success of parts of the project, but emphasises this was negotiated and organised at an early stage so the focus could be on other parts of the project.

The candidate also briefly discusses the practical work which was in the initial plan but was not completed; it would have been helpful to have some reflective discussion included here as it was an initial area of concern in the proposal. The candidate meets all the C grade criteria but none of the A grade criteria.

Self Evaluation

The candidate links well with the broad context of employability, but citizenship is also relevant and could have been usefully discussed here too. Other skills were well evaluated and there is some reflection on overall skills development.

Interpersonal skills were not discussed in the allocated section, but were covered in other sections such as in the problem solving and recognition of own skills sections.

Feedback from the presentation could have been very usefully discussed here, as well as the feedback from the mentor.

It is a very honest appraisal and it would have been good to see more examples of the 'little problems' in the problem solving section, as there are has clearly been some excellent work in overcoming these to complete a very sound project. All C grade criteria and one of the A grade criteria have been satisfied.

Overview

This project started strongly, and was completed well. The planning stage was weak in places, the evaluation and self evaluation missed opportunities to elaborate on the lessons learned during the progress of the project, meaning the A grade criteria were not all met at these stages. There was over-reliance on the Internet and in spite of some external links being made these were not used as effectively as they might have been. There were missed opportunities for some primary research to ascertain the level of

awareness of the importance of blood donation and some of the reasons why people are reluctant to donate blood. However, the candidate has clearly developed during the project and deserves the C grade pass which was awarded.

The assessor report and overall project contained very helpful and insightful comments from both assessor and verifier. These emphasise the level of support for the candidate, which she acknowledges in her self evaluation.

The involvement of assessor and verifier at each individual stage of the process also ensured a robust quality assurance process for the project as well as supporting the candidate very well.