



# Consultation on: Proposed Revised Standards for the AfN CPD Endorsement Scheme



## Introduction

- ▶ The Association for Nutrition (AfN) holds the United Kingdom Voluntary Register of Nutritionists (UKVRN) which distinguishes nutrition practitioners who meet rigorously applied training, competence and professional practice criteria.
- ▶ Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is the combination of learning activities through which registrants maintain and extend their knowledge and skills in order to remain safe to practise.
- ▶ All UKVRN registrants are expected to undertake a variety of CPD each year alongside a reflection of the activity. ANutr registrants accumulate CPD to develop specialist skills which contribute towards their transfer portfolio. RNutr registrants and ANutr registrants who have been registered for more than 4 years, are required to undertake at least 30 hours of CPD activities each year to maintain and develop their nutrition knowledge and skills. Both of these groups can be randomly selected for a CPD audit review.
- ▶ The AfN CPD Endorsement Scheme provides a clear demonstration of high quality, relevant, evidence based CPD provision. It shows independent endorsement by AfN of a learning activity against agreed standards and allows promotion of AfN Endorsed CPD activities direct to UKVRN Registrants.





## Introduction

- ▶ On 1st July 2023, AfN introduced new Standards for Independent and Freelance Practice, which operate in conjunction with the UKVRN Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance, to ensure that registrants practice safely, ethically and effectively.
  
- ▶ Applicants for AfN CPD Endorsement indicate to the assessor which of the Core Competencies and/or Standards their activity meets. These are confirmed by the assessor and are displayed on the activities listing on the AfN website.
  
- ▶ Following a review of the UKVRN registration competencies, AfN is introducing changes in the next couple of years to both the RNutr Core Competencies (April 2024) and the ANutr Core Competencies (April 2025). As part of a commitment to the UKVRN Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance 2021, registrants maintain their competencies and keep these up to date.
  
- ▶ It is important to review the AfN CPD Endorsement Scheme to ensure that the standards for endorsing CPD provisions are aligned with the revised UKVRN Registration Competencies; Standards for Independent and Freelance Practice and Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance. This consultation asks for your opinion on proposed revisions to the standards for the AfN CPD Endorsement Scheme.



## Proposed changes to CPD Endorsement Standards with rationale for changes

 = current standard,  = proposed new standard

### Current Standard 1

The learning activity must have clearly defined nutrition-based objectives and content that is clearly referenced to scientific evidence and/or professional practice.

### Proposed Change

No change.

### Current Standard 2

The learning activity must maintain and extend UKVRN registrants' knowledge and skills for lifelong professional competence.

### Proposed Change

No change.

### Current Standard 3

The learning activity must be devised, managed and delivered by an appropriately qualified and experienced person.

### Proposed Change

The learning activity must be devised, managed and delivered by a **person qualified and experienced in the field of the learning activity.**

→ Rationale: We have changed the wording of this standard to ensure that the person delivering the CPD has the appropriate expertise.



#### Current Standard 4

The learning activity and those developing/delivering the activity must do so in compliance with the AfN Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Practice.

#### Proposed Change

The learning activity and those developing/delivering the activity must do so in compliance with the UKVRN Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance 2021.

→ Rationale: This standard has been updated to refer to the updated Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance.

#### Current Standard 5

When the learning activity is provided cross-discipline, it must be clear that information/advice within this is suitable for UKVRN registrants and does not encourage practice outside of their scope of practice.

#### Proposed Change

When the learning activity is provided cross-discipline, it must be clear that information/advice within this is suitable for UKVRN registrants and does not encourage **activities** outside of their scope of practice.

→ Rationale: The wording has been amended. The amendment to 'activities' gives a broader scope to this statement.



## Current Standard 6

The learning activity must be relevant and useful to UKVRN registrants and be impartially delivered, reflecting current evidence. Where the learning activity is offered or funded by a commercial company, the provider must be able to demonstrate how the learning activity goes beyond commercial boundaries to address wider issues.

## Proposed Change

No change.

## Current Standard 7

The learning activity must be open to all, irrespective of gender, race, social class, disability, religion, marital status or sexual orientation. Where courses require a prerequisite knowledge this will be stated and where relevant an explanation will be provided.

## Proposed Change

The learning activity must be open to all, irrespective of **age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation (Equality Act 2010)**. There should also be no **discrimination on the grounds of social class or background**.

→ Rationale: Standard split. This part of the standard has been amended to explicitly refer to all nine protected characteristics, (Equality Act 2010), in addition to social class and background.



## Proposed Change - cont.

### New Standard 8:

Where courses require a prerequisite knowledge this will be stated and where relevant an explanation will be provided.

→ Rationale: This statement was previously subsumed in the previous standard. We propose that it becomes a separate standard in its own right.

## Current Standard 8

The learning activity must be evaluated by the provider and applicants should describe how this will be achieved. Applicants must undertake to collate this feedback and send AfN a summary sheet to provide on-going quality assurance and to inform future training needs.

## Proposed Change

No change to wording. Standard number changed from 8 to 9

→ Rationale: Renumbered due to splitting of standard 7 into two standards.

## Current Standard 9

Use of the AfN name, and AfN CPD logo must be in accordance with the signed declaration of application and must be approved in advance in order to safeguard AfN's reputation.

## Proposed Change

Moved to be included in the scheme's Terms and Conditions.

→ Rationale: This is a better fit with the terms and conditions than as being a standard.



## Proposed Additional Standards

Under the current system a CPD Provider is required to identify which Core Competency area(s) and/or Standards are addressed by the learning outcomes of the CPD. This identification takes place against the five Core Competencies; UKVRN Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance and the AfN Standards for Independent and Freelance Practice. Once approved these are displayed on the activities listing on the AfN website, so that all registrants are able to identify activities to keep their skills and knowledge updated.

We are considering whether CPD providers could also match the learning outcomes of their CPD activities against the RNutr Competencies for specific specialist areas of practice (e.g. Animal or Sports) and if this would help registrants identify suitable activities for their individual training and personal development needs.

Consequently, we are asking in this consultation for your opinion on whether you feel this level of specific competency should be included in the assessment of application and included on the activities listing on the updated Endorsed CPD Activities page on the AfN website.

Combined with the updated Registration Competencies coming into effect, this is an opportune time to consult on how AfN CPD Endorsement can help registrants further to identify learning activities suitable to their professional development needs.

This consultation therefore asks for your opinion on the proposal to add three new standards to the AfN CPD Endorsement Scheme.





## Proposed New Additional Standards and Rationales

### Proposed Standard 10

The CPD Provider must state the focus of the learning activity as being either 'General' or for a particular Specialist Area of Practice.

→ Rationale: To aid registrants in identify whether a CPD activity is directed at their particular specialist area of practice or CPD needs.

### Proposed Standard 11

If the learning activity is aimed at a particular specialist area of practise, the CPD Provider must state the targeted area from one or more of the following: Animal, Food, Nutrition Science, Public Health, Sport and Exercise or Healthcare-Medical (for dual registered medical practitioners).

→ Rationale: To help registrants identify the particular specialist area(s) of practice. Specifying the specialist focus of the learning activity could therefore help to signpost CPD, especially for more niche specialisms such as Animal or Sport and Exercise.

### Proposed Standard 12

The CPD Provider must match the main learning outcomes of the activity to the Core Competencies and/or Independent and Freelance Practice Standards.

→ Rationale: This has been incorporated into current assessment to aid the activities listing on the website, therefore it is proposed to become a formal standard. Learning objectives could be matched to either maintaining/extending ANutr Core Competencies; RNutr Core Competencies; Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance; Standards for Independent and Freelance Practice or a combination of these. It would not be expected that CPD Providers would match the sub competencies.



## Consultation Questions

Do you agree with all of the changes proposed for Standards 1 to 6?

Yes / No

-> Please give reasons

Do you agree with all of the changes proposed for Standards 7 to 9?

Yes / No

-> Please give reasons

Proposed New Standard 10: Do you agree that the CPD Provider should state the focus of the learning activity as being either 'General' or linked to a Specialist Area of Practice?

Yes / No

-> Please give reasons

Proposed New Standard 11: Do you think that it would be useful to have the specialist area of practice focus of a CPD activity identified for signposting purposes?

Yes / No

-> Please give reasons



## Consultation Questions Cont.

Proposed New Standard 12: To which set of Core Competencies or Standards do you think that the learning outcomes of the activity should be matched? (select as many as applicable)

ANutr Core Competencies

RNutr Core Competencies

Standards of Ethics, Conduct & Performance

Standards for Independent and Freelance Practice

Proposed New Standard 12: Do you think it is reasonable that a CPD Provider matches just the main learning outcomes of the activity to the Core Competencies or Standards?

Yes / No

-> please give reasons

Do you have any other comments about the proposed revised Standards for the AfN CPD Endorsement Scheme?

Yes / No

-> If Yes, please provide comments in the provided space

Please submit your consultation response via the online collector at:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/mnxz7pma0u>