

RARPA

Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement in Non-Accredited Learning

Guidance and Handbook & Suggested Paperwork

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Recognising and recording progress and achievement in non-accredited learning (RARPA)

RARPA is a means of validating the outcomes of programmes which do not result in qualifications or other outcomes certified by awarding bodies.

What is meant by 'non-accredited' learning?

'Non-accredited learning' is used to describe formal and non-formal provision which does not lead directly to any form of external accreditation, award, or qualification i.e. that which is internally certificated or for which there is no formal record of the outcome.

RARPA is learner centred. It is a quality initiative; it is not about funding. The staged process aims to improve the learning process for each learner by facilitating reflection of learning and progress at key points in the programme. Tutors have a key role to play in making this process beneficial for each learner involved and in ensuring that the methods used to record and recognise progress and achievement are appropriate and have value for the learner.

The approach needs to be flexible enough to apply to the varied types of nonaccredited learning and be effectively incorporated within quality assurance and selfassessment.

The staged process has the potential to recognise outcomes not anticipated at the start of the learning process. This might include things like progress in developing self-esteem or self-confidence or changes in motivation or attitude to learning – all of which are powerful drivers for progression into other non-accredited or accredited learning.

There are two elements to the RARPA approach:

The **Staged Process** consisting of five core steps which provide a means of recording progress and achievement for non-accredited learning.

Quality assurance processes for RARPA using providers' existing self-assessment and continuous improvement processes.

RARPA - Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement in Non-Accredited Learning

The process, which has become known as **RARPA**, consolidates good teaching and learning practice.

RARPA is the standard process that should be followed for all non-accredited learning programmes.

The RARPA approach that has developed comprises two elements:

- the 'Staged Process' for recognising and recording progress and achievement in non-accredited learning
- quality assurance processes (RARPA Moderation) for assessing the Staged Process and RARPA principles that are appropriate, fit for purpose.

In addition, there are key themes that are central to RARPA. These are:

- the approach, both the Staged Process and the quality assurance of learning should be as non-bureaucratic as possible
- the application of RARPA should be fit for purpose
- the learner is at the centre of the RARPA approach, it is not intended as solely an organisational tool for providing information for a quality assurance system but one that enhances the learning experience
- the approach should complement and integrate with existing processes for quality assurance and learner recording
- the Staged Process can be mapped to the Common Inspection Framework and should encourage effective self-assessment and evidence of effective learning processes at inspection

The Elements of the Staged Process

- ¹ Aims appropriate to an individual learners or groups of learners.
- 2 Initial assessment to establish the learner's starting point.
- **3** Identification of appropriately challenging **learning objectives**
- 4 Recognition and recording of progress and achievement during/on programme (formative assessment).
- 5 End of programme learner self-assessment; tutor summative assessment; review of overall progress and achievement.

*Use the RARPA checklist for Tutors & Managers template Appendix A on page 17

RARPA Stage 1 - Aims

All programmes should have clearly stated aims. These could include aims which do not specifically mention a learning aspiration.

Alternatively, or additionally, specific aims might be identified for individual activities. These should clearly express the main purpose of the activity.

* At this stage use the RARPA course outline template- Appendix B on page 19

RARPA Stage 2 - Initial Assessment

Initial assessment serves several purposes, aiming amongst other things to provide an opportunity for:

- Gathering of information about the learners' knowledge, experience and learning preferences
- Assessing additional learning support needs
- Discussing and negotiating the learning programme
- Adapting the programme to meet learners' needs.

It is thus intended to establish the learner's starting point and will additionally facilitate measuring the distance that each learner will have travelled by the end of the programme.

The process should result in a record of the outcomes of the process of establishing learners' starting points. The process used and the level of detail in recording the outcome will vary according to the nature and duration of the learning programme and types of learning activity undertaken. Records may include learners' self-assessment of prior learning and/or learning and support needs.

It is important that this process is handled sensitively, particularly with more fragile/vulnerable learners.

Some ideas for initial assessment activities

Your course needs to cater as much as possible for individual learner needs, and to enable both you and the learners to assess the distance travelled. Depending on the kind of group you are working with, you could use one of the following activities in the first session to assess learners' starting points:

- Using your course learning outcomes, get each learner to think about whether they already know a lot, something, or nothing about each one. (You might want to change these in the light of what comes out of this discussion). Then get them to identify their own personal goals for the course and record them on the Initial Assessment from Appendix B
- A quiz can be a useful way of finding out what people already know about the subject it needs to be fun and not too long but can provide valuable information about individual starting points.
- An activity, for example analyzing a painting, could help you to assess the level of existing skills in the group.
- You could get your learners to write a brief paragraph about why they have come on the course and what they hope to gain from it. This will also give you clues about whether the learner may wish to work on literacy, language, or numeracy issues. Learning Support may be required for some.
- Get learners to interview each other and take notes of the answers.

RARPA Stage 3 - Identification of appropriately challenging learning objectives

Tutors should clearly and accurately identify the anticipated learning objectives for learners in advance of the course. These objectives are the goals that the tutor will seek to confirm, amend and negotiate with the learners. When formulating objectives, it should be borne in mind that it will be necessary to estimate the amount of progress learners have made towards their achievement – i.e. they should be measurable.

At the start of the course the tutor should be able to share with learners the aims and objectives as they appear on the proposed scheme of work.

The aims and objectives should be discussed to identify both those suited to the class as a whole, and those suited to the needs and goals of individual learners.

Not all learning objectives need apply to all learners. Some may have learning objectives of their own, and indeed should have, if these are conducive to their own learning and compatible with the overall aims of the course. It is quite possible to be responsive to differential learning needs and learning preferences without abandoning the central aims and objectives of the course.

Any new objectives should be discussed and agreed with the learners. A written record of the revised list of objectives should then be prepared, to which the tutor and learners are able to refer.

Learning objectives may be amended during the learning programme, for example, as a result of formative assessment. These amendments may apply to individuals or to the group as a whole.

Evidence of the identification of learning objectives would normally take the form of clearly stated suitably challenging objectives for all programmes and, wherever feasible, for each learner. The appropriate level of challenge will vary according to initial assessment of learners' needs, aspirations and starting points.

*A useful good practice resource from Ofsted to help you set targets can be found at: http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/good-practice-resource-outstandingindividual-target-setting-highbury-college

Why we need to identify learning objectives

Although some of the courses we offer may appear to have a leisure focus, we should always be clear that **learning is at the heart of the activity** and for this reason we should always be able to identify what the learning objectives associated with any activity are.

To make sure that we are meeting the needs of the individuals and groups participating in learning, we should ensure that the courses we offer have learning objectives that have been agreed with the learners. This will also enable them to measure "the distance they have travelled" during the course.

When courses lead to a pre-determined qualification, the learning outcomes are prescribed by the awarding body – in other words, the course may be described as an "off the shelf" product.

With non-accredited courses we are dealing with "bespoke" products, the design and delivery of which are strongly influenced by the learners themselves, in order to produce something that is "tailor made" especially for them.

By giving people, a learning experience that matches their needs and aspirations as closely as possible, we are more likely to succeed in engaging them as lifelong learners and are less likely to lose those "fragile" learners who view qualifications as a threat rather than an incentive.

It should be our mission to guide people gently through this first-rung provision and help them to a point where they can function as confident learners who are happy to embark on courses leading to qualifications.

RARPA Stage 4 - Recognition and recording of progress and achievement during programme (formative assessment):

For non-accredited learning success measure (based on an individual learner) for courses over 10 hours or more:

Both individual and group learning outcomes must have been set

Any 'achieved' outcomes must be fully met.

At least half of the individual learner outcomes must be met.

Achievement is to be calculated at 80% of learning outcomes set

	ement for non-accredited learning	
1	The following learning outcomes have been set:	80% of 7 outcomes = 5.6 outcomes. (Rounded up to 6).
	5 group learning outcomes	Therefore, the learner needs to achieve 6 learning outcomes in total, of which at least 1
	2 individual learning outcomes	must be an individual outcome
2	The following learning outcomes have been set:	80% of 7 outcomes = 5.6 outcomes. (Rounded up to 6).
	4 group learning outcomes	Therefore, the learner needs to achieve 6 learning outcomes in total, of which at least 2
	3 individual learning outcomes	must come from individual outcomes.

RARPA Stage 4 - Recognition and recording of progress and achievement during programme (formative assessment):

This will take a variety of forms, but typically would include

- tutor verbal feedback to learners
- learner reflection
- progress reviews.

Evidence of this stage of the process would include

- records of learner self-assessment
- group and peer assessment
- tutor records of assessment activities and individual/group progress and achievement.
- learners' files, journals, diaries, portfolios, artwork; videos, audiotapes, performances, exhibitions and displays
- individual or group learner testimony
- artefacts, photographs and other forms of evidence

Formative assessment is integral to the process of recognising, validating and recording achievement, and requires of tutors that they constantly attend to the work of learners, noticing any progress (or lack of it). As indicated above, it is particularly important that the tutor encourages learners to reflect upon their learning and their progress and provides appropriate feedback in response. This is essential to the entire process of validating learning.

Many tutors conceive 'assessment' as formal, written and summative; however, it need not be. On the contrary it may often be informal, oral, and formative, designed to be encouraging and supportive. Thus, in this context, assessment implies a discerning judgement about learners' progress. It is formative in so far as its purpose is forward-looking, aiming to improve future learning, in contrast to the retrospective nature of summative assessment.

Research indicates that learners prefer the term 'feedback' and that learners' capacity for reflection and informed self-assessment would be enhanced by more dialogue with tutors and the sharing of criteria and norms used to evaluate progress and achievement.

Even when a programme of learning is 'non-accredited', we should not conclude that the learners do not wish to have any form of assessment or recognition of their learning/progress. On the contrary, learners may have a fear of assessment, but do not want their progress ignored. There is a delicate balance which needs to be established. The learner may need sensitive and detailed feedback, but this should be based on some form of valid assessment of progress and achievement. Endless, uncritical compliments can be as undermining as over-critical comment.

Learners should be encouraged to become aware of what they are doing, how they are doing it, and what is going well or not so well. Structured dialogue amongst learners, and between tutor and learner, can be encouraged so as to enable learners to reflect critically on their learning and their progress.

It is now recognised that learning to learn is an important feature of the learning process. This is particularly important to those learners returning to the learning process after a significant period of time. The recognition and evaluation of one's own progress plays an important part and can be highly motivating. Facilitating self assessment also contributes to the process of taking learner perspectives seriously, encouraging learners to develop their knowledge of what they are doing and the particular learning styles that work best for them.

Paper Based Assessment	Assessing without Paper
Assignments	Continuum (e.g. line of floor)
Action Plans	Conversation

Assessment Matters

Application Form	Discussion
Case-study (notes)	Exhibition
Checklists	Games
Continuum (paper)	Observation
Learner Profile (experience, health	Performance
etc)	
Learning Journal, Diary	Practical Activity
Quiz/Questionnaire	Q & A
Self-Assessment Forms	Real World (visits, home, work)
Tracking Sheets	Role Play
Worksheets	Simulation
	Tutorial

Some ideas for formative evaluation

Formative evaluation provides the information you need in order to reflect on how your course is going, and to mould it to fit the needs of your learners as you go along. In addition it records learner progress through the course. The information you gather from it can also contribute to the feedback you provide for your learners.

Remember to record:

• Your own evaluation of each session on lesson plan, including notes on individual learners.

Sources of this information could include:

• Verbal feedback and reflection from your learners:

At the end of every sessions ask each learner in turn to say one thing they have learnt from/enjoyed about the session and one thing they need to know more about

• Written reflection from your learners:

After every session, encourage your learners to record what they have learnt, and write a brief reflective paragraph

RARPA Stage 5 - End of programme learner self-assessment; Tutor summative assessment; review of overall progress and achievement.

This will be in relation to appropriately challenging learning objectives/outcomes identified at the beginning/during the programme. It may include recognition of learning outcomes not specified during the programme.

From Sept 09, in line with instructions from Ofsted, achievement on all non-accredited courses will be measured by learners achieving at least 80% of their intended learning outcomes.

Evidence of this stage of the process will include

- records of learner self-assessment
- group and peer assessment
- tutor records of assessment activities and individual/group progress and achievement
- learners' files, journals, diaries, portfolios, artwork; videos, audiotapes, performances, exhibitions and displays
- individual or group learner testimony
- artefacts, photographs and other forms of evidence

Evidence is likely to comprise qualitative and quantitative information and to demonstrate planned learning outcomes and learning gains identified subsequently.

Record of Achievement



Brief Summary of Learner Journey

What should tutors be doing to show their learners are learning?

Session one

Find out about your learners:

- Why have they come?
- What do they expect?
- What prior experience or knowledge do they have?
- What they can actually do already (related to the subject)?

After session one

- Write up brief notes about each learner or keep copies of what they write about themselves.
- Read any questionnaires, quizzes etc
- Revisit your planning and scheme of work

On-going in the sessions

- Check the learning
- Find out how learners feel they are progressing
- Record both of these
- Give feedback on progress
- Collect examples of learning e.g. photos, tapes, work in progress

On-going

- Keep notes of changes to plans when responding to needs
- Jot down notes about progress of students
- Plan activities to show learners how they are progressing
- Build in challenges
- Keep records in course file

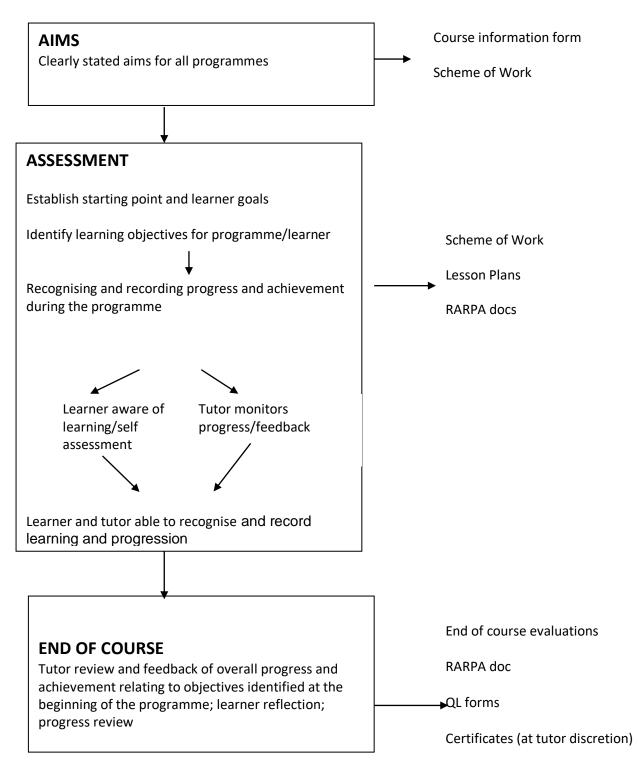
At the end of the course

- Find out how students think they have progressed (against initial outcomes)
- Give them feedback on the learning you have noted
- Find out what they want to do next

At end

- Check file is complete
- Review your course
- What do you need to change before teaching it again?

The Staged Process



Moderation of the process

It is vital that RARPA as a process is subject to effective validation and moderation. This means that providers/tutors should have in place moderation processes to ensure that **assessment decisions are robust and evidenced.**

Whilst larger providers will be able to carry out this activity as part of their normal validation processes, smaller providers may have a capacity issue. EDA can support smaller providers with this moderation process as part of our normal monitoring processes. In addition, EDA will bring together providers to moderate across programmes throughout the academic year in Quality Forums.

Monitoring process: review

All schemes of work prior to delivery Sample ILPs, at halfway point on completion Review success data Review the process through the observation of teaching and learning

Moderation:

Provide opportunities for tutor & manager to moderate the process across programmes using

Provider/tutors will be encouraged to share examples of best practice

What Are Inspectors Looking For?

Two key elements

- a. Recognising And Recording Progress and Achievement -
- b. Common Inspection Framework CIF

RARPA Staged Process	Mapping to CIF Questions
1. Clearly stated learning aims appropriate to a learner or group of learners	Staff use their skills and expertise to plan and deliver teaching, learning and support to meet each learner's needs
2. Initial assessment to establish the learner's starting point	Staff initially assess learners' starting points and monitor their progress, set challenging tasks, and build on and extend learning for all learners
3. Identification of appropriately challenging learning objectives - initial renegotiated and revised	Staff initially assess learners' starting points and monitor their progress, set challenging tasks, and build on and extend learning for all learners
 4. Recognition and recording of progress and achievement during programme [formative assessment] Tutor feedback to learners, learner reflection, progress reviews 	Learners understand how to improve as a result of frequent, detailed and accurate feedback from staff following assessment of their learning
5. End of programme learner self assessment; tutor summative assessment; review of overall progress and achievement	All learners achieve and make progress relative to their starting points and learning goals

Appendix A

A Checklist for Tutors & Line Managers

Tutor	Venue	Programme	
Day	Time	Start Date	

Before the course starts

Who	Action	Complete	Notes
Tutor & Programme Manager	Agree course aims and objectives		
Tutor & Programme Manager	Agree learning outcomes to be assessed		
Tutor & Programme Manager	Agree appropriate way of recording		
	progress		
Tutor & Programme Manager	Agree methods to involve learners		
Tutor	Completes course outline form		

Who	Forms	Complete	Notes
Tutor & Programme Manager	Scheme of work		
Tutor & Programme Manager	Lesson plans		
Tutor & Programme Manager	Course details for marketing		
Tutor & Programme Manager	Agreed format for recording assessment *		

At the start of the course Early weeks

Who	Action	Complete	Notes
Tutor	Assess learner's starting point		
Tutor	Agree individual learning aims and record		
	them		
Tutor	Explain course aims		
Who	Forms	Complete	Notes
Tutor	Record of group or individual learning		
	outcomes		

During the course

Who	Action	Complete	Notes
Tutor	Produce and use lessons plans		
Tutor	Monitor learner progress		
Tutor	Student feedback		
Tutor	Record lesson evaluation		
Tutor	Group progress and Achievement records		
Tutor	Individual learner records		
Tutor	Lesson plans/evaluations		
Tutor	ILPs (if appropriate)		

End of course

Who	Action	Complete	Notes
Learner	Has opportunity to complete end of		
	course evaluation		
Tutor	Reviews overall progress and achievement		
Tutor	Reports on those achieving their learning		
	aims and course learning outcomes		
Tutor & Line manager	Discuss any issues raised		
Tutor & Line manager	Certificate of achievement produced		

Who	Forms	Complete	Notes
Learner	Learner end of course evaluation form		
Tutor	Tutor evaluation form		
Tutor	Progression discussion		
Tutor	Certificate & celebration ceremony		

Appendix B

RARPA Scheme of Work/Course Outline

Course Title	Tutor Name	Training Provider	No of sessions	Course Times & dates
Conorol Course /				
General Course A	Aims (Main purpose o	of course)		
E&D, Health and S	afety/Safeguarding co	nsideration		
Course Aims:				
Learning Outcom	a By the and of the	nia agurag (all/magt/agm	a) learnara will be ab	
Learning Outcon	ies – by the end of th	nis course (all/most/som	e) learners will be ab	
Intended Learner	s (who is the course	for):		
Knowledge and a	hilitios assumed: //a	re there any pre-requisit	as 2).	
I THOMEUSE and a	ionnico assunicu. ((a	ine there any pre-requisit		
1				

Expected Group Profile & Differentiation Strategies: (Note student mix, those requiring support, etc)

Summary of Content	Assessment & evidence generated	Notes, incl. Aids & Equipment required
	Summary of Content	

Appendix C	RARPA Lesson plan		
Course title:	Name of tutor:	Venue:	Day & time of class
Session number	Subject/Topic of lesson		Number of learners
Group Profile			
Considerations: Equality & diversity/S	afeguarding/Health & Safety/British	How differentiation will be met	
Values			
Aims: The aims of the session are:			
Learning outcomes: by the end of	the session students should be able to	0:	
Learning outcomes, by the end of	the session students should be able to	0.	

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Approx Timing	Content & Teacher Activity	Learner Activity	Aids & Equipment	Assessment Method

Lesson Evaluation: How did the lesson go?

(to be completed after the lesson – include a list of any particular points to be noted for the next lesson).

Assignment or Homework set:

How will I meet missed learning due to learner absence?

Appendix D Non-Accredited Initial Assessment & Learner Achievement Record

Learner Name:		Provid	der
Course Title		Tutor	name
Start date	End D	ate	

1= I can't do this	2= I can partly do this but need help			3=I can do this well				
Learning Outcomes – by the end of the session learners will confirm that they can achieve at least 80% of the outcomes		Star	t		End			
below:			2	3	1	2	3	
Group Objectives								
Personal Objectives								

At the end of the course please use this space to describe what else you have gained from this course. Include here any thoughts you have about your overall achievement and about your personal progress and development
What Next? - Now that you have completed your programme of learning, what would you like to do next?
Would you like someone to contact you to discuss further training? 🗖 YES 🗖 NO
Comments from tutor – how will you support the learner to achieve Nextsteps –include and signposting/referral

 I confirm that I have achieved the outcomes(s) above)

 Learner Signature:
 Date______

 Tutor signature:
 Date______

Appendix E Group progression tracking sheet

Course Title:	Day / Time:
Tutor:	Venue :
Use the following key for assessment of learn	ning outcomes:
• Y = Happy with this learning objective	? = Problems with this learning objective

• O = Missed this learning objective

X = Needs more working on	

Learner Name	Learning Outcomes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Has the learner achieved their individual goals?								
Please insert a 1 for all learners who have achieved 80% of their learning goals.								

Where an intended learning outcome does not apply to a particular learner please indicate with N/A

Tutor Signature _____

Date_____

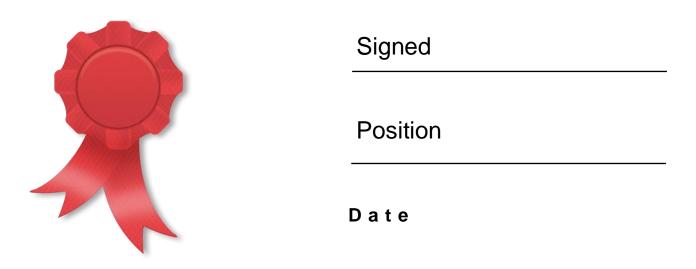
Appendix F

Certificate of Achievement

This award certifies that:

Has successfully **Achieved** the **following**:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4



Appendix GRARPA Learner Formative reflective Log

Write a few sentences of reflection on your learning

Course title:				Learner Name		
Session	Date	what I learnt in today's session	how I n	night use it?	How did you feel about the	Anything I am still not clear about?
no		(knowledge, skills, understanding			way you learnt it?	
						Is there anything else you want to record?

Appendix HSample Course Evaluation QuestionnaireWhat do you feel you have gained from the course?

Which parts have you found easiest?

Are there parts you have found difficult?

Which parts do you like most?

Which parts do you like least?

Which of the teaching methods do you like best

	Yes/No
Demonstration	
Discussion	
Guided instruction	
Whole group work	
Working in pairs	
Other – please detail	

Are there methods you do not like?

How do you find your relationship with your tutor?

	Yes/No
Approachable	
Supportive	
Easy to understand	
Other	

Please add some comments about your learning environment

Appendix I Tutor – End of Course Review

Tutor Name:			Course Title:				
Line Manager:							
Venue:				Dates :			
Day:				Time:			
Data required on your learners	Starters	Completers		r of learners ed courses)	achieving 80% of learning goals (non-		
Please comment below							
Reasons for any learner							
Reasons for learners' no	ot achieving o	or submitting cou	irse work	– what can y	you do to improve this in the future?'		
Reasons for learners' not achieving or submitting course work – what can you do to improve this in the future?'							
How have you monitored the progress of your learners, does this monitoring provide a written record of progress? – (ILPs, RARPA forms) Please describe							
Are the resources available to you – adequate and appropriate for your learner's needs?							
How do you feel your course has met the expectations of your learners?							
Did you have any difficulties meeting the needs and supporting individual learners in your class? Did any of your learners receive additional learning support– Please explain							

How well are your learners guided onto further learning opportunities? – Please explain. Have you made use of our IAG service?

Do you have any recommendations or changes for the next course? – Please explain

As a tutor do you feel that you receive adequate support from the Service to carry out your job successfully? Is there any additional support/staff development that would help you in your teaching?

Have you any suggestions for the better marketing of your course? Can you help us with this?

Any other comments? (Think about what went well and not so well)

Line Manager Comment-including learner satisfaction comments

Tutor signature	Date	
Line Manager signature	Date	