

## Employer Consultation

The following points were noted by two scribes (University Teachers) during two small group discussions consisting of those employers attending the consultation event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009. The following questions were proposed in order to initiate discussion in the groups.

- What would be the Benefits of a Degree programme of Education for people working in the Drug and Alcohol field?
- Does this model of a Drug and Alcohol degree fit with your needs?
- What would you suggest we need to change/include?

The following observations were noted by the scribes;

- All very supportive of development of degree programme (two people noting this to be the missing link as only short courses and postgraduate study available in Scotland and if Higher Education in topic is required then only available in England ,usually by distance learning).
- The importance of improving the students' skill base was emphasised.
- In particular the development on innovation in practice and developing leaders in the field was considered by the group as a benefit form students undertaking this programme.
- Important to link with Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)on developments and to have proposed degree as recognised by the SSSC.
- Courses within the degree programme to be offered as CPD for staff would be attractive for employers and staff. This would enable staff to get recognition for work/attendance/credit at courses, which at present the do not receive form attending short courses.
- The Importance of APL for existing staff was stressed as an extremely important feature for attracting staff and employers who might be put off attending/funding a full degree programme for four years.
- Employers would struggle with resources/finance/time allocation for staff to attend a full time degree course. It would be easier for employers to release staff for blocks of study time rather than occasionally.