

## **Reasonable Adjustments to Assessment Arrangements Policy**

### **1. Scope and Purpose of Policy**

This policy outlines the procedures and requirements to ensure access arrangements for Reasonable Adjustments are met. This policy applies to Signature, our centres and their candidates.

### **2. Policy Statement**

Signature aims to ensure that access to assessment is provided so as to maximise opportunity for as many candidates as possible. As a general principle, Signature would wish to allow candidates the same level of support during assessments as they have received during the learning process, providing that the support does not give the candidate any unfair advantage or disadvantage over others who do not have such support.

#### **Adjustments**

The Equality Act 2010 requires that awarding bodies to adjust arrangements for assessment where a disability means a candidate experiences discrimination that would amount to 'substantial disadvantage' in an assessment. Awarding bodies are not required to alter the assessment standards themselves, if these are a justifiable measure of competence that is being assessed.

Signature will consider individually each request for these adjustments. To agree the request we have to show:

- discrimination would occur, as it is defined in the Act;
- the adjustment gives the candidate no advantage over other candidates;
- the security or integrity of the assessment is unaffected; and
- There is no adjustment to the competences being tested in the assessment.

To make the decision that gives the candidate the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills at assessment, we have to have certain information about the candidate available to us:

- Details of the candidate's disability;
- Evidence of need, produced by independent specialists (Medical certificate, professional assessment report);
- Details of the adjustments the centre is making in the course of teaching the candidate;

These requirements are set out as part of the candidate registration process on IRIS.

#### **Local Access Arrangements**

Centres are responsible for making sure candidates with disabilities are not disadvantaged by the assessment facilities they provide.

## **Essential requirements**

Signature publishes in each of its qualification specifications a set of essential requirements needed to demonstrate the required competence in an assessment.

For example, our BSL qualification specifications include requirements for candidates to have sufficient manual dexterity, sight and facial movement to produce and receive BSL. It is important that centres explain these requirements to potential candidates so no one starts a course without knowing what will be required of them to achieve the unit or qualification.