

ATHLONE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	
External Evaluation Report for	Certificate in Supported Self-Directed Living (SSDL) Special Purpose Award
Provider	Athlone Institute of Technology
Programme Title	Certificate in Supported Self-Directed Living (SSDL) Special Purpose Award
Award Type	Special Purpose Award Certificate
Level	6
Award Type	Major
Embedded Award	No
Number of ECTS Credits	40
First Student Intake	September 2016
Date of Panel Visit	16 June 2016
Venue	Institute Boardroom
PANEL MEMBERS	
Chairperson of Panel	Mr Joe Cox, Retired Head of Strategy & Policy, Sligo Institute of Technology.
Secretary to Panel	Dr Pearse Murphy, Head of Department of Nursing & Healthcare, Athlone Institute of Technology
Other Panel Members	Ms Karen Patton, Lecturer in Early Childhood Care, Health and Education, Letterkenny Institute of Technology. Ms Deirdre McGrath, Lecturer in Sociology, Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown.

	<p>Mr Tommy Lavelle, Chairperson, Leitrim County Childcare Committee, Laird House, Drumshambo, Co. Leitrim.</p> <p>Mr Johnny Petit, Manager of the National Learning Network, Belhavel Training Services, Golden Island, Athlone.</p>
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The proposal is to provide a Certificate in Supported Self-Directed Living (SSDL) Special Purpose Award under the National Framework of Qualifications. This offering is one year part-time Level 6 programme open to candidates who meet the minimum entry requirements. It is envisaged that an initial cohort of 80 learners (2 intake groups per year).</p> <p>The target market for this programme will be human service/social care workers supporting people experiencing devaluation as a result of disabilities, mental health difficulties and dementia to live self-directed lives. Applicants will be expected to have a Leaving Certificate or equivalent, and be working in the sector.</p> <p>The panel welcomed the opportunity to review the programme submission and to meet the management group of the institute and the teaching faculty. Based on the materials provided to the panel and the subsequent interaction with both the management group and the teaching faculty, the panel is satisfied that the capability exists within the school to offer this programme subject to the conditions and recommendations set out below.</p>	
<p>Conditions</p>	
1. That is be made clear that AIT is the awarding body of this programme.	
2. The programme is governed within the AIT and QQI collaborative frameworks and that all documentation is in place to support this.	
3. That the assessment of students is in line with Standards, Assessment, and Awards of Athlone Institute of Technology.	
<p>Recommendations</p>	
1. That the reading lists be supplemented and updated.	
2. That the storage of documents integral to assessment be clearly delineated within the collaborative agreement with GENIO.	
3. Criteria need to be set for recruitment of learners.	
4. Where possible two or more learners be recruited from an agency.	

5. There needs to be clear engagement with agencies with, for example, the provision of training programmes for managers/leaders in those agencies.

6. Measurement of positive change to clients lives realised from learners graduated through this programme be reported in order to feed into the iterative quality assurance process.

7. That the GENIO organisation make use of AIT staff and resources where practicable for the delivery of the programme.

Signed: Mr Joe Cox (Chairman)

Dated: 29 May 2016