

601/5612/0

NOCN Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice

OVERVIEW

What is the primary purpose of the qualification?

The **NOCN Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice** prepares you to work with young people in a range of youth work settings and specialise in subjects that are particularly relevant to you or your work. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine enjoyment, challenge and learning. Youth workers work typically with young people aged between 11 and 25. Their work seeks to promote young people's personal and social development and enable them to have a voice, influence and place in their communities and society as a whole.

The **NOCN Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice** is suitable if you have completed the Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work Practice (which is required for those wishing to work as a JNC qualified Youth Support Worker) and wish to extend your knowledge of and skills in specialist subject areas. This is for employees who deliver operational youth work and who undertake duties on their own initiative or who carry supervisory responsibility for small projects, such as one night a week clubs. Workers with these responsibilities will receive leadership and operational guidance from professionally qualified youth workers.

Example of key duties include:

- Working directly with young people to develop their social education by providing programmes of activities, services and facilities
- Establishing contact with and guiding young people as part of local programmes
- Providing advice and support to local community groups and agencies
- Assisting in the motivation, retention, developing and support of staff and volunteers
- Contributing to service development by planning, delivering and monitoring of local provisions
- Implementing equality and diversity policies
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with young people and community groups
- Maintaining quality of service provision including giving directions to other workers
- First line management responsibility for workers and volunteers, including recruiting, developing and initial disciplining of staff
- Initiating and monitoring developments of services, particularly with other agencies
- Performing and ensuring the discharge of administrative duties (including budget control, records keeping and health and safety)

The **NOCN Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice** is included within the Advanced Apprenticeship for Youth Work (England).

The Level 3 Diploma is suitable outside the Apprenticeship if you are already in employment within the Youth Work sector and would like to gain a qualification in recognition of your knowledge, understanding and skills and/or may be required to undertake a qualification in Youth Work Practice as a condition of employment whilst in the job.

Who is this qualification for?

The Level 3 Diploma is suitable for you if you wish to develop your skills for leading work with young people in a youth work setting specialising in a particular area of work for example: Education, Health, Social Care, Youth Justice and Housing.

It is suitable for you if you:

- need minimal support with your learning
- are not yet ready or have insufficient relevant experience and practice for study at University Higher Education level
- wish to access a Higher Education youth work programme
- have no formal qualification
- wish to return to learning
- would like to lead in the delivery of work with young people and specialise in certain areas
- are aged 18 and over

The qualification is suitable for Youth Workers delivering operational youth work and wanting to undertake duties on their own initiative or have supervisory responsibility for small projects, such as one night a week clubs. Youth Workers with these responsibilities will receive leadership and operational guidance from professionally qualified youth workers.

What prior qualifications/levels of attainment does a learner need to take this qualification?

No prior qualifications are needed to undertake this qualification. You may already be working within a youth work setting but this is not an essential requirement. The minimum age for starting this qualification is **18** years of age.

You will need good communication and literacy skills and be able to take responsibility for your own learning.

What is the content of the qualification?

The NOCN Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice is a 37 credit qualification, 24 of which are mandatory including those required to achieve the Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice which must be completed successfully before progressing to the remaining units.

Optional units should be chosen based on your area of specialism.

You will learn:

- Key purpose, principles and values of youth work
- Where youth work takes place
- How to safeguard young people in youth work
- How young people develop
- The role of youth work in supporting young people's development to adulthood
- Understanding rights
- Engaging and communicating with young people
- Strategies for leading effective group work
- How to work with young people to manage conflict and challenging behaviour
- How to lead work based practice under supervision
- How to reflect on your practice at an appropriate level
- Specific youth work related topics according to options selected

WHAT COULD THIS QUALIFICATION LEAD TO?

Will the qualification lead to employment?

On achievement of this qualification you will meet the minimum requirement to work as a Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) qualified Youth Support Worker, delivering operational youth work and carrying out duties on your own initiative, you may have Supervisory responsibility for small youth work projects.

The Diploma supports Youth Work practitioners working in related specialist services, for example, Education, Health, Social Care, Youth Justice and Housing.

This qualification is 100% vocationally relevant in content to work as a Youth Worker.

Will the qualification support progression to further learning?

Steps on the ladder:

- NOCN Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice (601/5608/9)
- NOCN Level 2 Certificate in Youth Work Practice (601/5607/7)
- NOCN Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work Practice (601/5611/9)
- **NOCN Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice (601/5612/0)**
- Level 6 Bachelor of Honours Degree in Youth and Community Work (incorporating Level 4 Certificate in Higher Education and Level 5 Diploma in Higher Education)
- Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Youth Work (England only)
- Level 7 Masters Degree (incorporating Level 7 Post-Graduate Diploma in Youth and Community Work)

Why choose this qualification over similar qualifications?

There is a Certificate and Diploma available at Level 3 in Youth Work Practice:

The Level 3 Certificate is the minimum qualification for JNC Youth Support Worker, it is a 27 Credit qualification, requires commitment of 189 guided learning hours and is achievable within a 12-month period. The qualification covers the theory behind Youth Work Practice and offers the opportunity to explore a specific area where skills could be applied. This qualification may also be used as an access route to study a BA (Hon) Higher Education Youth Work programme leading to JNC Professionally Qualified status.

The Level 3 Diploma offers the opportunity to specialise in a particular area of Youth Work and supports Youth Work practitioners who are employed to work in related specialist services, for example, Education, Health, Social Care, Youth Justice and Housing. The Diploma requires a greater commitment than the certificate, is a 37 credit qualification, involves 259 guided learning hours and is achievable within an 18-month period. The Diploma is more widely recognised as the access route to the higher education programmes leading to JNC Professionally Youth Work Qualified status.

WHO SUPPORTS THIS QUALIFICATION?

The Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice is endorsed by the ETS Committee England and ETS Wales on behalf of the JNC. The qualification is supported by a wide range of local authority, Voluntary Youth Service organisations, Higher Education Institutes and is recognised as the industry standards qualification for Youth Work at this level.

This qualification is supported by the National Youth Agency.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If further information is required, please contact the NOCN Business Development Team:

business-enquiries@nocn.org.uk