



The Open
University



3rd Floor Lancaster House
33 Islington High Street
London N1 9LH

T: 020 7278 1041
F: 020 7833 2491
E: mail@ncvys.org.uk
W: www.ncvys.org.uk

registered charity no. 1093386
registered company no. 4385383

Qualifications in Working with Vulnerable Young People: FAQ for Training Providers

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Introduction

The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) is pleased to provide information for training providers in the voluntary and community youth sector who may want to consider providing vocational qualifications or units aimed at youth practitioners who work with vulnerable young people.

Two awarding bodies are offering accreditation - ABC Awards and the Open University. This information sheet provides the background to these QCF qualifications and aims to answer some of the questions training providers have asked of NCVYS to date and signposts to further information sources.

Background

Skills for Justice (a Sector Skills Council) led on the project of establishing these qualifications on behalf of the government funded skills bodies for the children, young people and families' workforce. The demand for such qualifications was recognised and back in 2008 NCVYS members were involved in consultation opportunities, in order to influence the curriculum to meet the needs of the sector. Vulnerable young people are the sector's biggest group of service users, which is why NCVYS welcomes these specialist qualifications to support its sector's workforce development.

These qualifications were the first ones to meet the criteria process and be placed on the Integrated Qualifications Framework (www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/igf). The qualifications are underpinned by the Common Core of Skills and Knowledge >> (www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/common-core).

What are the titles of the qualifications?

Level 3 Award in Working with Vulnerable Young People
Level 3 Certificate in Working with Vulnerable Young People
Level 4 Award in Working with Vulnerable Young People
Level 4 Certificate in Working with Vulnerable Young People

Can you tell me more about the qualifications?

The QCF qualifications provide the opportunity for learning and assessment to take place through the integration of practical activities in a work based setting with academic activities. Recognised prior learning can take place and learners submit portfolios as they do in NVQs. There are some learning providers who are not offering any taught provision, but instead facilitate learners gaining the units or qualification via the submission of a portfolio. Further information is available – see pages 3 and 4.

What is QCF?

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is a new framework for recognising and accrediting vocational qualifications. It will make it easier for individuals to learn in bite size chunks at their own pace. Each unit is allocated a level and credit value. Learners will be able to accumulate and transfer their credit to gain the appropriate full qualification and under certain rules of combination, the units may be recognised within a qualification offered by another awarding organisation. One credit equals 10 hours of notional learning time, which is a combination of taught and personal study.

The qualification level indicates its complexity and the levels remain the same as the previous National Qualifications Framework. The size of the qualification (volume of learning) is expressed using the terms Award (1-12 credits), Certificate (13-36 credits) or Diploma (37 + credits).

For more information visit the Children's Workforce Development Council's web site >>

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/qualifications-credit-framework or the

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency's web site >>

www.qcda.gov.uk/qualifications/60.aspx

What topics are covered within the new qualifications?

There are some mandatory units which cover such things as safeguarding vulnerable young people and developing effective relationships. The optional units cover the majority of the issues/situations faced by vulnerable young people and therefore it may be attractive for youth practitioners and volunteers to undertake just the units that are applicable to their work area:

- Support young people who are **looked after or are leaving care**
- Support young people who are **socially excluded or excluded from school**
- Support young people with **disabilities and/or learning difficulties**
- Support young people with **mental health problems**
- Support young people in relation to **sexual health and risk of pregnancy**
- Support vulnerable young people who are **experiencing pregnancy or parenthood**
- Support young people who are vulnerable to **neglect, sexual, emotional or physical abuse**

- Support young people who are **homeless or in debt**
- Support young people who are **not in employment, education or training**
- Support young people who are involved in **anti-social and/or criminal activities**
- Support young people who are in **custody and/or court**
- Support young people who are **victims, survivors or witnesses of intimidatory or criminal behaviour**
- Promote **health and well-being** of vulnerable young people
- Support vulnerable young people who are **gay, lesbian or bisexual**
- Support young people who are **asylum seekers**

Do we need to have assessors and verifiers?

Yes, as the qualification is based on NVQ Codes of Practice.

What are the costs and contact details for the awarding bodies?

ABC Awards:-

<i>ABC Awards Charges</i>	
Centre Recognition Advice and Visit* (half day)	£500
Qualification Approval Visit* (half day)	£250
Qualification Advisory Visits	£250
Learner Registration Fees for QCF Qualifications (2010-11) include a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit charge • Moderation / Certification Fee 	£2.05 per credit £16 per learner
Level 3 Award in Working with Vulnerable Young People	Minimum 12 credits
Level 4 Award in Working with Vulnerable Young People	Minimum 12 credits
NB: Learners can choose to take a selection of units and/or qualifications and the formula still applies.	
Please note that centres may not be subject to centre and/or qualification approval charges if they are eligible for mutual recognition. Full details of ABC's centre recognition and qualification approval policies are available on the ABC Awards website.	

*NB Where the two visits above can be combined, a single fee of £500 will be charged

Visit the ABC web site at www.abcawards.co.uk (and download a Centre Recognition form) or contact Tracy Harker to arrange a visit from a Business Development Manager. Tel: 01823 365434, 07854 991979 or email: tracyh@abcawards.co.uk.

The Open University:-

<i>Assessment Centre Approval and Verification</i>	
Initial approval as an assessment centre, and verification during the first year of operation:	
for a new centre	£550
for an existing centre with another awarding body*	£350
for an existing centre with existing qualifications with the OUAB*	£100
Verification in each subsequent year of operation:	
for centres with 0 - 99 registrations per year	£550
for centres with 100 - 199 registrations per year	£350
for centres with 200 or more registrations per year	no fee

*Subject to the proposed qualification being in a related sector and of the same type as existing qualifications, and subject to satisfactory external verification reports.

The OU Awarding Body contact is Martin Cusack. E-mail m.cusack@open.ac.uk or telephone 01908 332870.

Is there any funding available?

NCVYS is offering a bursary scheme to support providers whose training is not yet accredited to become registered centres. In addition, consultancy and mentoring support is provided to support potential training providers through the process. Funding has been provided as a result of the Progress project, which provides accredited training for the voluntary and community sector young people's workforce. It is a key strand of the Government's Young People's Workforce Reform Programme. For more information please call 020 7278 1041 and ask for the Workforce Development Team or email claire@ncvys.org.uk

NCVYS also may be able to contract with you as a training provider to subsidise some of the costs of units, which match the five training priority areas supported under the project referred to above. Please do contact the Workforce Development Team to find out more.

For further information about funding sources, check out the *Funding Guide to Workforce Development* at www.ncvys.org.uk >> workforce >> funding.

This information sheet has been written by Nichola Brown, Workforce Development Officer at the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services in conjunction with ABC Awards and the Open University. If you notice any inaccuracies or can suggest additional text to this information sheet, please email mail@ncvys.org.uk.