

An employer's guide to Levels 3 and 4 NVQs in Youth Justice Services



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The safety of communities and the reduction of crime is high on the government agendas across the UK. The Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 and the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act of 1999 highlighted the issue of juvenile crime - both its prevention and the processes and services in place to deal with it.

The results have been the creation of Youth Offending Teams in England and Wales, and the firm responsibility placed on all local authorities across the UK for the establishment of partnerships to deal with youth offending and crime reduction. Consequently there is a need for a common understanding and development of the skills required across a range of services in both the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Individuals involved in youth justice may come from a variety of backgrounds and organisations but all have a common interest in the fair and effective administration of justice and in preventing children and young people who have offended, or who are at risk of offending, from committing further offences.

What do these qualifications provide?

Based on the most current occupational standards agreed by the Community Justice National Training Organisation (CJNTO), these awards, at levels 3 and 4, are aimed at all individuals working in the Youth Justice Sector. Their work may include:

- addressing offending and the harm done by crime and anti-social behaviour,
- case management
- restorative justice
- addressing factors that contribute to offending
- working with groups, communities and agencies to prevent crime and disorder
- developing and managing services.

At level 3, the NVQ is intended for individuals who work in a variety of settings related to the provision of Youth Justice Services. These range from voluntary services within the community, such as the Appropriate Adults Service and NACRO, to statutory agencies, such as Youth Offending Teams and Juvenile Secure establishments.

Individuals are assessed in a total of ten units - five of which are mandatory:

- Assist in the assessment of children and young people's offending behaviour and in planning provision
- Model behaviour and relationships with children and young people which recognises the impact of crime on victims and communities
- Contribute to the prevention and management of challenging behaviour by children and young people
- Promote people's equality, diversity, rights and responsibilities
- Contribute to the development and effectiveness of work teams

Plus a further five units, which can be taken from a range of optional groups.

At level 4, the NVQ is intended for individuals who have a high level of responsibility within youth justice services.

Individuals are assessed in a total of eleven units - six of which are mandatory:

- Promote people's equality, diversity, rights and responsibilities
- Develop and sustain effective relationships with workers in other agencies
- Process information relating to children and young people's offending behaviour
- Reinforce positive behavioural goals during relationships with children and young people
- Enable others to understand the factors that may lead to children and young people offending and how to prevent offending
- Develop one's own knowledge and practice

Plus a further five units which can be selected from a range of four optional groups.

In addition to the full NVQs, individuals have an opportunity to undertake 'Continuing Development Awards' in

- Referral Panel Practice
- Mentoring
- Appropriate Adults

These 'mini' awards, each consisting of four NVQ units, are intended for people who may not have access to the full NVQs or who are working in particular areas of Youth Justice Services, in a paid or unpaid capacity and wish to develop their skills in those particular areas.

How is the qualification delivered?

NVQs are work based awards, which means candidates are assessed in the workplace performing real work activities. If a worker requires any additional training prior to assessment this can be based on or off-site or through a combination of the two. Ideally workers will have access to a mentor as well as somebody to directly assess their skills.

The essential requirement is that the candidate is linked to a City & Guilds centre approved to offer the award. As an employer you will be able to discuss fully with the centre the most suitable way of delivering the award for you and your team. We can provide you with a list of approved assessment centres offering this award in your local area. Alternatively, you can become a City & Guilds approved centre in your own right and deliver the programme without outside help.

Do the qualifications form part of a recognised framework?

These awards have direct links with the NVQs in Community Justice, Custodial Care and Care. There are many common units and candidates are able to transfer credit for units which have been achieved in previously gained qualifications.

Key points

- These are new awards that provide a formal qualification in youth justice and a pathway to career progression in youth justice or other related services
- The awards are suitable for all youth justice workers including volunteers and part time workers
- They are based and assessed on your direct work with children and young people
- The awards are suitable for workers in all types of settings
- You don't need previous qualifications to do the NVQs

In addition, these awards are on the national qualifications framework for England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

City & Guilds, in partnership with the CJNTO, has also recently developed a learning programme to support the competences of the NVQs. The Progression Award in Community Justice has recently been accredited on to the National Qualifications Framework at level 3. Contact us for further information about this new award.

Are there any learning materials available?

An award guidance and record of assessment book is available at each level, for the mandatory units of these qualifications. The publication reference numbers are TS-03-7498 (level 3) and TS-04-7498 (level 4). Recording documentation for the optional units at both levels are available on CD-ROM, publication reference CD-34-7498.

Why City & Guilds?

City & Guilds is the UK's foremost provider of vocational awards in the health and social care sector. We have dedicated development, quality assurance and quality improvement teams, specifically for this sector. Furthermore, they are supported by a network of specialist advisers in each of our regional and national offices of the UK. Advisers work directly with employers and assessment centres to ensure that our awards are appropriate to your needs and delivered within a quality assured framework.

Are there any other qualifications that may be of interest to me?

We offer a complete range of qualifications for the justice, community and social care sectors including:

Levels 2 and 3 NVQs in Custodial Care

Levels 3 and 4 NVQs in Community Justice

Levels 2, 3 and 4 NVQs in Advice and Guidance

Levels 2, 3 and 4 NVQs and SVQs in Care

In order to help your workforce progress to and between N/SVQ levels we also provide a range of vocationally related qualifications (VRQs) including:

Level 3 Progression Award in Community Justice

Level 3 Certificate in Community Mental Health Care

What is my next step?

If you are already an approved centre you only need to obtain the relevant scheme documentation and then complete a Scheme Approval Form. This should then be sent to your nearest regional or national City & Guilds office.

If your organisation is not a City & Guilds centre you should be able to find an approved centre near you by contacting our Customer Relations team (details following).

Alternatively, if you would like to become an approved centre, your local City & Guilds office will be able to help you. Contact details can be obtained from our website or from our Customer Relations team.

How can I find out more?

You can find out more by logging on our website to find the location of your nearest City & Guilds office or by contacting our Customer Relations team. Details on other products and services offered by City & Guilds can also be found here.

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If asked for a scheme number, please quote 7498.

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