



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

Unit code: F7FC 33

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed for those who work or wish to work in the field of Youth Work, either as volunteers or in paid employment. This Unit is the second of three Units introducing participants to youth work and will normally be delivered as part of the Professional Development Award in Youth Work at SCQF level 6. Candidates may be working, or planning to work, with young people, either as volunteers or in paid employment. This Unit is designed to provide candidates with an understanding of communication and group work skills necessary to engage with young people in a range of settings. It provides underpinning knowledge and understanding drawn from the national occupational standards for Youth Work and Community Learning and Development (CLD) Competences.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Describe a range of approaches which may be used to engage with young people
- 2 Outline relevant communication and interpersonal skills required of the youth worker
- 3 Describe group work skills used in youth work

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 6: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: There are no pre-entry requirements for this Unit. However, it may be beneficial for candidates to have some experience, paid or voluntary, in working with young people.

Core Skills: There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit. However, there may be opportunities to develop some aspects of the Core Skills in *Communication, Working with Others, Problem Solving* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes. This is a mandatory Unit in the PDA in Youth Work at SCQF level 6.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: Each Outcome could be assessed separately by one or more of the following modes. Modes of assessment could include: a recording sheet, a reflective diary, an oral account, multiple choice short-answer questions, and extended responses which could be based on a case study. Alternatively, this Unit could be assessed holistically.

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit Title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

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Outcome 1

Describe a range of approaches which may be used to engage with young people

Knowledge and Skills

- ◆ Methods of making contact
- ◆ Needs of young people

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Describe in detail methods for making contact with young people
- ◆ Describe techniques to identify the needs of young people

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed through one or more of the following: a recording sheet, a reflective diary, an oral account, or by multiple choice short-answer questions, or an extended response which could be based on a case study. Alternatively, the Outcome may be assessed holistically with other outcomes in this Unit.

Outcome 2

Outline relevant communication and interpersonal skills required of the youth worker

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Communication skills
- ◆ Interpersonal skills
- ◆ Potential barriers to participation
- ◆ Ways to overcome communication difficulties

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit Title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Identify the range of communication and interpersonal skills which can be used by the youth worker to engage with young people
- ◆ Describe examples of using communication and interpersonal skills in youth work settings
- ◆ Describe potential barriers to participation and how these may be overcome
- ◆ Describe how to overcome communication difficulties

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed through one or more of the following: a recording sheet, a reflective diary, an oral account, by multiple choice short-answer questions, or an extended response which could be based on a case study.

Alternatively, the Outcome may be assessed holistically with other outcomes in this Unit.

Outcome 3

Describe group work skills used in youth work

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Theories of group work
- ◆ Dynamics of group work
- ◆ Risk assessment and management
- ◆ Confidentiality in the context of group work

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Outline theories of group work
- ◆ Explain the dynamics of group work
- ◆ Describe two features of managing and assessing risk
- ◆ Explain the need to respect confidentiality

Assessment guidelines

This outcome may be assessed through one or more of the following: a recording sheet, a reflective diary, an oral account, multiple choice short-answer questions, an extended response which could be based on a case study. Alternatively, this outcome may be assessed holistically with other outcomes in this Unit.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F7FC 33

Unit title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

Superclass category: PN

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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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Unit code: F7FC 33

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The Unit forms part of the Professional Development Award Youth Work SCQF level 6 and may be delivered as part of this or similar SCQF level 6 group awards. It provides underpinning knowledge and understanding for the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Youth Work as devised by the Sector Skills Council, Lifelong Learning UK and for the CLD Competences as stipulated by the Standards Council. This Unit is designed to give candidates an understanding of communication and group work skills necessary to engage with young people in a range of settings. It is underpinned by the core values and principles of youth work.

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 introduces candidates to a range of methods, techniques and approaches which can be used to engage with young people in a meaningful and positive way. These could include:

- ◆ Information and communication technology (digital, text, social network sites, e-mail)
- ◆ Activity-based approaches: inter-agency work, outreach work, detached work, face-to-face, peer communication, use of the media
- ◆ Direct methods: peer education, one to one, group work
- ◆ Indirect methods: social networking, websites, information provision
- ◆ Identification of needs and ways of identifying them

Outcome 2

This Outcome develops the candidate's understanding of the communication and interpersonal skills required of youth workers, such as listening, pastoral, and counselling skills, and develops the skills needed to identify barriers to participation and communication. This Outcome should focus on how these skills are applied in a youth work setting.

This Outcome should also give the youth worker opportunities to develop creative strategies to identify and overcome a range of barriers including institutional barriers, conflict resolution, communication difficulties or diversity issues and should allow opportunities to consider the impact around exclusion and inclusion.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

Outcome 3

Outcome 3 gives candidates opportunities to explore a range of group work theories and processes. Candidates should also develop an understanding of how these can be used effectively. This Outcome also underlines the need for understanding confidentiality in group work settings and the establishment of ground rules.

The Outcome also explores the area of assessing and managing risks and challenges in a youth work setting, recognising the positive nature of participating in challenging and positive risk activities, eg outdoor work.

Useful websites for this Unit include:

Principles, theory, practice and development of work with groups

<http://www.infed.org/groupwork>

Social Networking

<http://www.nya.org.uk/information/111564/youthworkandsocialnetworking/>

UK Children's Commissioners' Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

http://www.sccyp.org.uk/UK_Childrens_Commissioners_UN_Report.pdf

YouthLink Scotland: the national agency for youth work

www.youthlinkscotland.org

Scottish Government:

Learning Connections

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Life-Long-ningConnections>

Standards Council for Community Learning and Development

<http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/>

Youth Work:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/YouthWork>

Lifelong Learning UK: the sector skills council for lifelong learning including youth work.

<http://www.lluk.org>

<http://www.lluk.org/scotland.htm>

Informal education website:

<http://www.infed.org>

Youth Council for Northern Ireland

<http://www.ycni.org/>

Voluntary Youth Network for Northern Ireland.

<http://www.youthnetni.org.uk/>

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

Welsh Assembly Government

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/?lang=en>

CWVYS: Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services

<http://www.cwvys.org.uk/en/>

NYA: The National Youth Agency in England

www.nya.org.uk

NCVYS: National Council for Voluntary Youth Services

<http://www.ncvys.org.uk/>

Useful publications for this Unit include:

Working and learning together to build stronger communities,
Scottish Executive Guidance for Community Learning and Development

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/02/18793/32157>

Moving Forward: National Youth Work Strategy

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/03/08113759/0>

National Youth Work Strategy: Volunteering Action Plan

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/26110321/0>

Valuing Young People: Principles and connections to support young people achieve their potential

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/04/21153700/0>

More Choices, More Chances

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/06/13100205/0>

Building on Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities: A joint statement on community learning and development (CLD), including adult literacy and numeracy (ALN), by the Scottish Government and COSLA

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Life-Long-Learning/LearningConnections/cldjointstatement>

Statement on the nature and purpose of youth work

<http://www.youthlinkscotland.org/Index.asp?MainID=7616>

Community Learning and Development Competences

<http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/>

Professional and National Occupational Standards for Youth Work

<http://www.lluk.org/national-occupational-standards.htm>

Subject benchmark statement: Youth and community work

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/statements/YouthandCommunity09.pdf>

Same Difference

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/education/life-long-learning/learningconnections/research>

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

GUIDANCE ON ASSESSMENT AND DELIVERY OF THIS UNIT

This Unit is the second of three Units introducing participants to youth work and will normally be delivered as part of the Professional Development Award: Youth Work at SCQF level 6. It provides underpinning knowledge and understanding for the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Youth Work as devised by the Sector Skills Council, Lifelong Learning UK. This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to the core values, principles and theory which underpin work with young people and to raise awareness of the issues facing young people and those working with them.

Candidates will normally be following a training programme for youth workers.

As this Unit is about communication and group skills, it is recommended that much of the formative work could be undertaken through discussion and informal group work sessions. There may also be opportunities to use videos and case studies.

Outcome 1

This Outcome may be assessed through one or more of the following: a recording sheet, a reflective diary, an oral account, multiple choice short-answer questions, an extended response which could be based on a case study.

The Outcome may be assessed holistically with other Outcomes in this Unit. If the Unit is assessed holistically, a blend of the suggested assessment modes suggested for the individual Outcomes should be submitted. Alternatively, there may be opportunities for the assessment to take the form of a project or could be comprised of an extended response sampling key aspects from all three Outcomes.

Outcome 2

This Outcome may be assessed through the submission of one or more of the following: a recording sheet, a reflective diary, an oral account, multiple choice short-answer questions or an extended response which could be based on a case study.

The Outcome may be assessed holistically with other Outcomes in this Unit.

Outcome 3

This outcome may be assessed through the submission of an account, eg a recording sheet, a reflective diary, an oral account, multiple choice short-answer questions or an extended response which could be based on a case study. Alternatively, the Outcome may be assessed holistically with other Outcomes in this Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit. However, there may be opportunities to develop some aspects of the Core Skills *Communication* (Written and/or Verbal), *Working with Others*, *Problem Solving* and *Information and Communication Technology* (ICT) through the assessment of the Unit.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by Open Learning. However, while candidates would study outwith the centre using materials provided, it would be necessary to attend the centre at intervals for workshops and assessments. For further information on Open and Distance Learning, please refer to the SQA publication, *Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning*

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Youth Work: Engaging with Young People

This Unit is designed to provide you with an understanding of the communication and group work skills necessary to work successfully with young people in a range of settings. It is aimed at those who work or wish to work with young people in youth work settings, either as a volunteer or in paid employment. The Unit will help you develop a range of communication and interpersonal skills to enable you to engage effectively with young people. It will also introduce you to group working skills which can be used when working with young people in a youth work environment.

This Unit is one of three Units about youth work developed as part of the Professional Development Award in Youth Work at SCQF level 6 and will normally be delivered as part of this award. It takes account of the National Occupational Standards for the SVQs in Youth Work and the CLD Competencies defined by the Standards Council for Scotland.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ Describe a range of approaches which may be used to engage with young people
- ◆ Outline relevant communication and interpersonal skills required of a youth worker
- ◆ Describe group work skills used in youth work