



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

Unit code: FW6A 37

Superclass: EC

Publication date: October 2011

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to equip candidates with knowledge and understanding of children and their development, the impact of relationships and environment on children and the nature, extent and effects of child abuse. Candidates would be expected to apply this knowledge and understanding to casework.

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

- 1 Analyse the stages of child development.
- 2 Analyse the impact of relationships and the environment on children.
- 3 Evaluate the nature, extent and effect of child abuse.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Because of the specialised nature of this Unit (and others linked to the Professional Development Award for Children's Reporter Practice) all candidates must be employed by SCRA. In most cases this will be in the role of the Children's Reporter. For those candidates who are not employed in the role of Children's Reporter but employed by SCRA, case studies will be used to enable the candidate to achieve the Evidence Requirements for this Unit. Candidates will find it beneficial to have a background/experience in the field of law, social work and/or education.

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 10: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 10*)

**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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* and *Communication* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components. Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes in this Unit specification.

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.

Assessment

Assessment for this Unit could take the form of written papers, performance evidence, casework and/or oral evidence and can be undertaken during a suitable course of study or in the candidate's work context. Assessment may be completed in time set aside from work or in the candidate's own time.

All evidence should be relevant to the role of the Children's Reporter in delivering services to children, young people and their families.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

Unit code: FW6A 37

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

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 will be assessed holistically. Evidence Requirements and Assessment Guidelines for these Outcomes will appear after Outcome 3.

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.

Outcome 1

Analyse the stages of child development.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Stages and milestones in child development
- ◆ Analyse factors which contribute to developmental delay
- ◆ Critical analysis of theories of child development

Outcome 2

Analyse the impact of relationships and the environment on children.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Family compositions
- ◆ Analyse and apply factors which impact on parenting capacity
- ◆ Analyse and apply the impact of family dysfunction on child
- ◆ Analyse and apply peer relationships
- ◆ Analyse and apply the impact of social and environmental factors on child

Outcome 3

Evaluate the nature, extent and effect of child abuse.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ The nature of child abuse
- ◆ Analyse and apply the effects of child abuse
- ◆ Analyse and evaluate landmark enquiries in relation to child abuse

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills in the form of:

- (a) A report equivalent to 1,200 words or a presentation of approximately 10 minutes duration should be completed where the candidate critically analyses one theory of child development.
- (b) A report equivalent to 2,000–2,500 words should be completed. Candidates should:
 - Explain the different stages and key milestones in childhood and adolescence including brain development during the different stages.
 - Analyse the factors which affect child and adolescent development and contribute to developmental delay.
 - Explain the nature of child abuse.
 - Critically analyse the landmark enquiries in relation to child abuse.

Candidates should undertake some research and quote current best practice where relevant. They should justify their references on the basis of what they believe or have experienced and explain how it will influence their practice.

- (c) A portfolio of evidence from the candidate's casework with at least two examples of cases demonstrating:
 - Application of knowledge in relation to childhood and adolescent development and the factors which can affect it.
- (d) A portfolio of evidence from the candidate's casework with at least five examples of cases where the candidate has made an initial or final decision in relation to referrals received demonstrating:
 - Analysis of factors which impact on parenting capacity.
 - Analysis of the key social and environmental factors which impact on children.
 - Explanation of the impact of peer relationships on children.
 - Application of knowledge of child development, factors which affect parenting and social and environmental factors to decision making.
- (e) A portfolio of evidence from the candidate's casework with at least five examples of cases where the candidate has made an initial or final decision in relation to referrals received in relation to the abuse of a child demonstrating:
 - Analysis of the effect of child abuse.
 - Application of knowledge of the nature, extent and effect of child abuse.

Where a candidate has insufficient case examples from their casework to meet the Evidence Requirements a case scenario can be used as the basis for preparing the required documentation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

Assessment Guidelines for the Unit

Assessment for these Outcomes can be undertaken during a suitable course of study or in the candidate's work context. Assessment may be completed in time set aside from work or in the candidate's own time.

All evidence should be relevant to the role of the Children's Reporter in delivering services to children, young people and their families.

The assessment for these Outcomes could take the form of a written report/casework and/or oral evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

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

This Unit is designed for those members of SCRA who are carrying out the role of Children's Reporter. This Unit is part of the Professional Development Award (PDA) for Children's Reporter Practice. Candidates undertaking the full Award should be encouraged to relate their work for this Unit to the others in the Award.

The candidate should be encouraged to reflect on their experience and skills development during this and all other Units which comprise the PDA. It is anticipated that candidates will maintain a work-based reflective journal. This journal could be used as a private reference mechanism by the candidate and can assist in progressing the candidate's personal development. This journal is not assessed and its purpose is to enhance the personal development of the candidates.

Outcome 1

Candidates should be encouraged to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of stages of childhood such as pre-birth, infancy, middle childhood and adolescence, including brain development during the different stages.

Candidates should be encouraged to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key theories in child development such as attachment theory or loss and separation.

Outcome 2

Candidates should be encouraged to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of factors such as what children require from their parents/carers at their different stages of development; the different styles of parenting; parenting capacity and the factors which can affect this.

In particular, candidates should be encouraged to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the impact factors such as substance misuse or domestic abuse have on parenting capacity.

Candidates should be encouraged to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of social and environmental factors which impact on children, including peer relationships, housing, local resources.

Candidates should be encouraged to review scenarios covering different factors and provide analysis and comment to enable appropriate decisions to be taken in relation to casework.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

Outcome 3

Candidates should be encouraged to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of factors such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, factitious illness, cultural, social and economic.

At the time of writing, landmark inquiries include: Orkney, Cleveland, Dumfries, Rochdale, Climbie, Caleb Ness, Western Isles, Baby P.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit can be delivered as part of the Professional Development Award (PDA) for Children's Reporter Practice or on a stand-alone basis.

Candidates will meet with assessors to agree an assessment plan which will include detail of what evidence will be produced by the candidate and the date it will be produced.

The Outcomes for the Unit will be assessed holistically.

Candidates will be expected to either prepare and deliver a presentation or produce an assignment on a subject related to child development theories. In this presentation or assignment, candidates will be expected to provide evidence that some research/reading has been undertaken. This should be evidenced by quoting current/best practice or referring to material they have read. Candidates are expected to justify their references, eg because they agree or disagree based on what they believe/have experienced, or explain how it will influence their practice. If the candidate delivers a presentation, it should be approximately 10 minutes long and if the candidate produces an assignment it should be approximately 1200 words long. Examples of topics include attachment theory (if this topic is selected, candidates could, for example, research and reference the work of Bowlby, Ainsworth, Fahlberg, Howe and others); experiences of separation and loss (if this topic is selected, candidates could, for example, research and reference the work of Goldman, Littner and others); cognitive development (if this topic is selected, candidates could, for example, research and reference the work of Piaget, Bower, Vygotsky and others). The presentation or assignment could be reviewed with the candidate to allow professional reflection.

Candidates will also be expected to produce an assignment to support all of the Outcomes. In this assignment, candidates will be expected to provide evidence that research/reading has been undertaken. This should be evidenced by quoting current/best practice or referring to material they have read. Candidates are expected to justify their references, eg because they agree or disagree based on what they believe/have experienced, or explain how it will influence their practice. The assignment should be approximately 2,000–2,500 words long and should cover the following areas:

- ◆ Explanation of the different stages and key milestones in childhood and adolescence including brain development during the different stages.
- ◆ Analysis of the factors which affect child development and contribute to developmental delay.
- ◆ Explanation of the nature of child abuse.
- ◆ Critical analysis of landmark enquiries in relation to child abuse. This should include outlining the landmark enquiries, explaining the key principles from these enquiries and evaluating the impact of the enquiries on child protection practice.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

Candidates are also expected to produce case studies of at least two examples from their casework where they have applied knowledge in relation to childhood and adolescent development and the factors which can affect it to their casework. This can be from any stage of their involvement in the child's case.

Candidates are also expected to produce case studies of at least five examples of cases where the candidate has made an initial or final decision in relation to a referral received. These should cover the following:

- ◆ Analysis of factors which impact on parenting capacity, for example, domestic abuse, substance misuse, mental health.
- ◆ Analysis of the key social and environmental factors which impact on children, for example, housing, local resources.
- ◆ Explanation of the impact of peer relationships on children, for example, in relation to risk of offending.
- ◆ Description of the circumstances of the particular cases.
- ◆ Explanation and analysis of the decision made by the candidate.

Candidates are also expected to produce case studies of at least five examples of cases where the candidate has made an initial or final decision in relation to a referral received concerning the abuse of a child. These should cover the following:

- ◆ Analysis of the effect of child abuse in relation to the different categories of child abuse, namely, physical injury, sexual abuse, non-organic failure to thrive, emotional abuse and physical neglect.
- ◆ Description of the circumstances of the particular case.
- ◆ Explanation and analysis of the decision made by the candidate.

The review and analysis should demonstrate the candidate's application of knowledge to casework. The candidate must anonymise the cases by removing all references to names, addresses and date of birth. Candidates can use the unique identifying number from the case management system. In selecting cases for use to meet the Evidence Requirements for this Unit, candidates are encouraged to reflect on the Evidence Requirements for the other Units in this professional development award to try to select cases that will meet Evidence Requirements for other Units. Where a candidate has insufficient case examples from their own casework to meet the Evidence Requirements, case scenarios can be used. For example, the centre could provide a case scenario to the candidate of a mock referral and social background reports which have been received in respect of a child and the candidate could make a decision on the mock referral and analyse the factors which would impact on parenting capacity.

The assignment and review and analysis of cases could be reviewed with the candidate in the form of a professional discussion to allow professional reflection.

Work produced by the candidate could be supplemented by oral questions as required to ensure all Evidence Requirements are met.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

Candidates may complete the Evidence Requirements in time set aside from work or in their own time. They may be supported in this through a course of study including workshops provided by the centre or external training courses.

To support them completing this Unit, candidates can access resources on the intranet including current case law, practice instruction and research articles.

Open learning

All Outcomes are appropriate to open learning with assessor support at all stages. It is the responsibility of the delivering centre to ensure the authenticity of the candidate's work. Assessment evidence must be generated as described in the Evidence Requirements section. At the time of writing, candidates complete a paper portfolio but it is anticipated that e-portfolios will be developed in the future.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Elements of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* — Critical Thinking and Reviewing and Evaluating may be developed and enhanced in this Unit, which requires the analysis and evaluation of child development theories, impact of relationships and the environment on children and the nature, extent and effect of child abuse.

Oral *Communication* skills may also be enhanced during the interaction with children, young people and their families in the workplace. This is likely to involve using a range of verbal and non-verbal communication techniques, such as questioning, giving information and responding to others in order to advise on and/or prepare a case. *Written Communication* skills may also be enhanced where candidates will be encouraged to produce clear, structured written work in the preparation of their casework.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2011

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre, telephone 0845 279 1000.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Children's Reporter Practice: The Child and the Family

This Unit is designed to equip you with knowledge and understanding of children and their development, the impact of relationships and environment on children and the nature, extent and effects of child abuse. You would be expected to apply this knowledge and understanding to casework.

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

This Unit is assessed by written papers, casework and/or oral evidence and can be undertaken during a suitable course of study or in your work context. Assessment may be completed in time set aside from work or in your own time.

You will learn about/how to:

- ◆ Stages and milestones in child and adolescent development
- ◆ Analyse factors which contribute to developmental delay
- ◆ Critical analysis of theories of child development
- ◆ Family compositions
- ◆ Analyse and apply factors which impact on parenting capacity
- ◆ Analyse and apply the impact of family dysfunction on child
- ◆ Analyse and apply peer relationships
- ◆ Analyse and apply impact of social and environmental factors on child
- ◆ The nature of child abuse
- ◆ Analyse and apply the effects of child abuse
- ◆ Analyse and evaluate of the landmark enquiries in relation to child abuse