

Edexcel Level 3 & 4 NVQs in Learning and Development and Support Services for Children, Young People and Those who Care for Them.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

Who can do these NVQs?

The Edexcel Level 3 NVQs in Learning, Development and Support Services for Children, Young People and Those who Care for Them, are appropriate for those working as follows:

- ❑ Connexions Personal Advisers,
- ❑ Connexions Link Workers,
- ❑ Education Welfare Officers
- ❑ Learning Mentors
- ❑ Peer Support Workers, Classroom Mentors
- ❑ Behaviour Support Co-ordinators
- ❑ Social Inclusion Workers
- ❑ Attendance Managers
- ❑ Family Liaison staff.

What are endorsed pathways and what endorsed pathways are available with these NVQs?

The Edexcel level 3 and Level 4 NVQs in Learning and Development and Support Services for Children, Young People and Those who Care for Them, each have three endorsed pathways. The endorsement means that the title of the NVQ will include the pathway that the candidate has selected. These pathways have been devised so candidates can select units most appropriate to their working role. Candidates must follow one of these pathways.

The pathways are:

- ❑ Education Welfare Officers
- ❑ Learning Mentoring
- ❑ Supporting Young People.

Education Welfare: Education Welfare Officers work with children and young people with irregular patterns of school attendance. Candidates will take units concerned with the skills used to improve the attendance of those children and young people within their own caseloads.

At level 4 the emphasis is in terms of improving strategies and demonstrating skills in whole school support and the management and support for the work of Project workers for whom Education Welfare Officers have a management responsibility.

Learning Mentors: Learning Mentors work within schools and colleges to help to reduce some of the barriers that children and young people face in their learning. Candidates will take units on transfer and transition of children and young people in education contexts and mentoring to facilitate learning and development.

At level 4 units correspond to managerial requirements of an advanced role and involve the devising of strategies to improve systems and processes.

Supporting Young People: This pathway is intended for those working in youth support roles in Youth Services or Connexions Services. Specialist units include referral procedures and assisting children and young people in choosing and implementing a course of action.

At level 4 candidates will progress to a developmental role where they are assisting children and young people to plan and implement their own course of action.

What levels of NVQ are available and what level NVQ should candidates take?

These Edexcel NVQs in Learning and Development and Support Services for Children, Young People and Those who Care for Them, are level 3 and level 4.

Candidates, who have recently started work in a learning, development and support services role, should consider taking the level 3 NVQ. This qualification identifies the competencies required to operate at practitioner level in the job role. There are 27 units in the Edexcel level 3 NVQ which cover a diverse range of competencies that can form part of the working role. Candidates will need to take five core units, two endorsed pathway units and two other units.

The level 4 qualification offers progression for those working at more senior levels in the sector and includes units on management of services and strategic responsibilities. There are 48 units to choose from in this qualification. Candidates will need to undertake six core units, and choose two endorsed pathway units and three other units.

Who is competent to assess this NVQ?

"All assessors must be occupationally competent to the standard described in the units they are assessing based on current professional practice". This can be demonstrated by:

- being an experienced practitioner who has demonstrated the competence's required in the standards within their professional career within the last three years

or

- being currently responsible for monitoring or managing those who are performing the functions required in the standard.

Assessors should also be able to demonstrate the currency and credibility of their occupational competence through clear evidence of appropriate continuous professional development.

In addition assessors must hold positions that enable them to evaluate evidence provided by Expert Witnesses and to co-ordinate their contribution to the assessment process.

Assessors may be appointed who are able to assess individual units or whole awards. Where they assess an individual unit then there must be a co-ordinating assessor responsible for ensuring that full competence is demonstrated across all the required units for a qualification." (Please refer to the Assessment Strategy of the Sector Bodies and Joint Awarding Body Forum 2004, which is contained in the Edexcel Guidance for Centres).

What can I do if I do not have any assessors for some of the units in the NVQ?

If you find that you cannot assess some of the units in the NVQ you should contact other providers in your locality to assess whether there is a possibility of working in partnership for NVQ provision. This is particularly pertinent with the care units. You may find it useful to contact local providers of NVQs in Health and Social Care for example. You could also contact your Edexcel Regional Office and we may be able to put you in touch with local providers.

Can simulation be used?

Candidates must produce evidence to show they are competent in the units in which they are being assessed. In a few units simulation has been permitted, particularly when issues of confidentiality and privacy are concerned. The evidence requirements associated with each unit will state clearly whether simulation is permitted. This is provided in our logbook.