

Purpose Statement

Open Awards Level 3 Certificate in Understanding and Responding to Substance Misuse (RQF)

The primary purpose of this qualification is to prepare you to work with (on a paid or voluntary basis) with those struggling with alcohol/drug dependency, or to progress you onto further learning in this subject area.

Who is it for?

The qualification is appropriate for those over 18 who want to learn more about the difficulties facing those who are struggling with drug/alcohol dependency.

This qualification will also contribute to the professional development of those engaged within the sector such as;

- Specialist drug and alcohol workers
- Social workers
- Youth workers
- Teachers
- Prison officers
- Probation officers.

What does this qualification cover?

To achieve the qualification, you will need to complete 15 credits and commit to approximately 150 hours of learning.

You will complete 2 Mandatory units which are:

- The principles of understanding and responding to substance misuse
- The assessment, recovery and discharge planning for people engaged with substance misuse services

These units will equip you with underpinning knowledge and skills to be able to better understand the scope of substance misuse and its wide reaching effects both on the individual and society as a whole.

You will then have a choice of optional units including for example:

- Brief Interventions for Substance Misuse Practitioners Providing Harm
- Reduction Support to People who use Drugs
- Understand Coexisting Substance Misuse and Mental Health Diagnosis (Dual Diagnosis)
- Understanding Prescribing and Detoxification Services
- Understanding the Recovery Process

What are the Entry Requirements?

The minimum age for access to the qualification is 18. However, you are expected to have some experience or knowledge of working with those struggling with substance misuse and show a commitment to professional development.

What are the Progression Opportunities?

Achievement of the qualification will enable you find a level-appropriate job in this sector or continue onto further study. It could also help you obtain a voluntary position in a related sector and include such roles as:

- Family Support Substance Misuse Recovery Worker
- Recovery Worker
- Substance Misuse Outreach Worker

This qualification can also be used to improve your personal/professional development and learning if you are in, or working towards, and occupation where this knowledge would be beneficial.

What are the Assessment Methods?

You will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that you have acquired the knowledge and skills outlined in the assessment criteria. Evidence, within your portfolio of assessment, may include:

- Assignments or projects
- Observation of performance
- Questioning (written or oral)
- Practical Activities
- Photographs or videos
- Personal statements
- Project work
- Witness testimonies
- Group discussion
- Recognition of Prior Learning

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification was developed in collaboration with experts and practitioners from a range of organisations including Specialist Service Network – Occupational Development and Training Team, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and Renaissance