

Open Awards Level 3 Certificate in

Advocating for Others (RQF)

QAN: 610/8009/3

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Version Control

V1.0	New document. July 2026.
V1.1	Front sheet changed with new logo

About the Qualification

Title	Open Awards Level 3 Certificate in Advocating for Others (RQF)
Qualification Accreditation Number	610/8009/3
Sector	1.3 Health and Social Care
Level	Three
Funding	Please click here for more information
Pricing Information	Please click here for more information
Review Date	31/07/2029

Purpose	Prepare for further learning or training and/or develop knowledge and skills within a subject area
Sub-Purpose	Prepare for further learning or training

Total Qualification Time/Guided Learning	
Total Qualification Time (hours)	240
Guided Learning (hours)	120

Age Range and Restrictions	
Pre -16	x
16 – 18	x
19+	✓
Any other restrictions specific to the qualification(s)	

Any Specified Entry Requirements

Learners must be 19+ at the point of registration.

Development of the Qualification



Open Awards have worked in partnership with The Broughton Trust, a training provider that provide services to individuals, families and voluntary organisations in Salford.

The Broughton Trust aim to help reduce poverty and increase life chances for all members of their diverse communities in Salford, working in partnership with a wide range of agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors, and with funding from a wide range of sources. They aim to provide the best quality services, tailored to the needs of local people, to provide a pathway to greater self-belief, success and financial independence.

For more information, please visit [The Broughton Trust](https://www.thebroughtontrust.org.uk) or email office@thebroughtontrust.org.uk

Qualification Overview

The Open Awards Level 3 Certificate in Advocating for Others has been developed to provide learners with the necessary knowledge and skills needed to advocate for others. The primary purpose of the qualification is to enable learners to develop skills for informal and/or community advocacy without implying occupational competence. Although the qualification does not prove occupational competence, the secondary purpose of the qualification is to support learners who may be currently working in a related role to develop their advocacy capabilities.

The qualification is intended to be used by learners who may advocate across a wide variety of settings where advocates are needed, either formally or informally, for example in community organisations, youth work, social housing and more.

The qualification has been designed to cover core topics such as effective communication, equality, diversity and inclusion and the foundations of advocacy to give learners an understanding of advocacy and the opportunity to practically apply this knowledge using simulation and reflection.

Recommended Assessment Method Summary

Learners will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence set and marked by the education provider and externally quality assured by Open Awards.

Learners must provide sufficient evidence that they have the required knowledge, skills and understanding of the assessment criteria and that it is their own work.

Types of evidence could include:

- Questioning (written or oral)
- Simulated observation
- Written assignment
- Reflective practice
- Presentation

As the qualification does not lead to occupational competence there is no requirement for direct observation of advocacy sessions. In AC where a learner must demonstrate skills, it is explicit in the unit specification that these will be assessed using simulated observation. Please see the Assessment section further in the qualification guide for more information.

Assessment practices must reflect the Equality and Diversity Policy of Open Awards.

Qualification Structure

Rules of Combination

Credit Value of the Qualification:	24
Minimum Credits to be achieved at the Level of the Qualification:	24
Mandatory Units A:	24

Qualification Units

Mandatory Units A (all units must be achieved to be awarded the qualification)

Unit Reference Number	Unit Name	Credits	Level
L/652/3926	Advocacy in Practice	5	Three
K/652/3925	Advocating for Others	3	Three
H/652/3923	Effective Communication Skills in Advocacy	3	Three
J/652/3924	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Advocacy	3	Three
K/652/3916	Foundations of Advocacy	6	Three
L/652/3917	The Advocacy Relationship	4	Three

Delivering this Qualification

Becoming a Provider

To deliver this qualification you must be a recognised Open Awards Provider. For more information, head to our [website](#) or contact the team on 0151 494 2072.

How to Deliver

To request to deliver this qualification, please login to [the Portal](#) and then click on 'Tracking' and 'Initiate a Workflow'. You will then need to select 'Apply to Deliver Regulated Qualification(s)'.

For support with this process, please see the following document in the Portal 'Provider Portal Guidance – Qualification Approval' or contact the team on customerservices@openawards.org.uk or 0151 494 2072.

Registering Learners

Once you are ready to deliver this qualification, you will need to register your learners in line with the timescales below:

Short courses (15 weeks or less) within 25 working days of the course start date.

Long courses (over 15 weeks) within 60 working days of the course start date.

You will need to register your learners via [the Portal](#).

Quality Assurance and Standardisation

Delivery of this qualification must be done so in accordance with Ofqual regulatory guidelines and in line with Open Awards' quality assurance processes. Please see our website for more information.

Provider Staff Requirements

For the delivery and assessment of this qualification, Assessors and Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs) must have at least two years' experience in advocacy. This could have been gained in a variety of settings such as, but not limited to, housing, social care, youth work, education, community organisations.

In addition to the above:

- Assessors must hold, or be working towards, the relevant D32/ D33/ A1/ AQA unit(s) (or equivalent) or Level 3 Award in Education and Training
- Internal Quality Assurers must hold, or be working towards, the relevant D34/ V1/ IQA unit(s) (or equivalent), or a recognised IQA qualification

Providers are responsible for ensuring that their staff have the required experience and have access to appropriate training and support. They are also responsible for notifying Open Awards of staff changes. If providers are unsure if their assessors or IQAs meet the specialist requirements for this qualification they must contact Open Awards' Quality team prior to applying to deliver the qualification.

Assessment

Open Awards units and qualifications have been designed around the principle that the learner will build evidence towards the achievement of the assessment criteria over a period of time. Each learner is required to build a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that all the assessment criteria associated with each unit has been met.

As the qualification does not lead to occupational competence there is no requirement for direct observation of advocacy sessions. In AC where a learner has to demonstrate skills, it is explicit in the unit specification that these will be assessed using simulated observation.

Providers will need to ensure that all evidence presented in a portfolio is:

Authentic	It should clearly be the work of the learner.
Valid	It should clearly demonstrate the knowledge or skills that are set out in the Assessment Criteria.
Reliable	It will, in general, produce the same range of responses from learners, as long as they are used in similar circumstances and with similar groups of learners.
Inclusive	It will ensure that no individual learner is excluded from the opportunity to show their achievement because of their individual background or experience.
Sufficient	There should be enough evidence of achievement to give the assessor confidence that all assessment criteria have been met and grades achieved.

Assessors are required to review and assess all learner evidence and must be satisfied that learners have achieved all learning outcomes and assessment criteria relating to the unit being assessed prior to deciding the learner has completed the unit. Assessors will also ensure that the evidence produced by the learner is their own work.

Assessors retain records (e.g. Feedback Sheets, Individual Progress Record, Group Progress Record) on behalf of the Provider which are made available and used by the Provider's Internal Quality Assurer and Open Awards' Quality Assurance Team.

Assessment Criteria

For all units, assessment criteria will be assessed using internally set, internally marked assignments. The assignments will be internally quality assured, then subject to external quality assurance sampling by Open Awards. Providers must also carry out regular standardisation activities as part of the ongoing quality assurance of assessment decisions within the assignments used and assignments should be refreshed over time.

This list details likely assessment methods; however providers may choose other suitable assessment methods for their learners should they be required. The list is not exhaustive and alternative assessment methods may be used where they are appropriate to the assessment criteria and the needs of the learner.

Assessment Method	Knowledge/ Skill Based Criteria	Rationale
Questioning (written or oral)	K	Enables learners to demonstrate their knowledge/ understanding of specific subject content areas.
Simulated observation	S, K	Enables holistic assessment of learners' knowledge across multiple subject content areas/ assessment criteria. There are skills-based criteria in this qualification that require learners to be assessed using simulated observation. These criteria are in the following units: • Advocacy in Practice • Effective Communication Skills in Advocacy • Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Advocacy The unit specifications explicitly show which AC need to be assessed using simulated observation.
Written assignment	K	Enables learners to demonstrate their knowledge/ understanding of specific subject content areas.
Reflective practice	S, K	Enables learners to provide evidence from activities to demonstrate their application of learning. There are specific criteria in the units that require learners to reflect on their learning. The unit specifications explicitly show which AC need to

		be assessed using reflective practice.
Presentations	K	Enables holistic assessment of learners' knowledge across multiple subject content areas/ assessment criteria.

Please refer to the Open Awards Guide to Provider Assessment for further information and support.

Training and support

Open Awards provides a range of training and support resources for Providers. Online training is available free of charge through our online platform.

Information about available training and access arrangements is provided during provider approval and is available through the Open Awards website.

Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)

Providers must operate an effective Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) system that complies with the Open Awards CASS Strategy and the Open Awards Guide to Internal Quality Assurance, ensuring consistency and validity of assessment and grading decisions.

Internal quality assurance should:

- monitor assessor decisions
- confirm that assessment evidence supports achievement
- support assessor development
- identify inconsistent assessment practice
- promote standardisation across cohorts
- confirm that certification claims are accurate.

Internal quality assurance should take place throughout programme delivery and prior to certification.

External Quality Assurance (EQA)

Provider approval, compliance monitoring and external quality assurance is carried out by the Open Awards Quality Assurance Team/ External Quality Assurers who will confirm that the Provider is assessing to standard and ensure that there are robust internal quality assurance systems embedded.

Standardisation

Providers are required to contribute to national standardisation as requested by Open Awards. Open Awards offers standardisation events that are held throughout the year. Such events will also provide an opportunity to identify and share best practice. Up to date details of training and standardisation events can be found on our website.

For further guidance on Quality Assurance and Standardisation, please refer to the [Provider Handbook](#).

Recognition of Prior Learning and Achievement (RPL)

RPL is a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they may already possess. Evidence of learning must be sufficient, reliable and valid.

It is the responsibility of the Provider to inform Open Awards at registration of any exemptions and/or equivalences for which a claim may be made. These claims will be subject to external quality assurance by the Open Awards Quality Assurance Team.

For more information, please see our Recognition of Prior Learning Policy found on [the Portal](#).

Appendices and Links

The following documents can be viewed on the Open Awards [website](#):

1. Provider Handbook
2. Enquiries, Complaints and Appeals Policy
3. Equality and Diversity Policy
4. Invoicing Policy
5. Privacy Policy

Further supporting information can be found on the Open Awards Portal.

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