

Bath Spa University with David Niven Associates

Accredited Modules in Child Safeguarding

Information for Employers

Introduction

The safeguarding of children has become a major concern in recent years for all those involved in working with children and young people. Many employers in the public independent and voluntary sectors are providing training for their staff. The need for training reflects the development of new understandings and strategies on the protection of children. It also reflects the large proportion of those working with children and young people who limited qualifications.

Bath Spa University has a long and successful history of the education of professionals in education. Working with David Niven Associates, expert consultants in safeguarding, it offers accreditation for employers' training in child safeguarding, allowing candidates to progress by building academic credits towards a higher education qualification.

The University is currently working with the following employers who have students registered:

- Wiltshire Council
- Action for Children
- Torbay District Council

A successful Safeguarding conference in January 2010 brought together a wide range of employers across all sectors and was addressed by the Chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, Sir Roger Singleton.

Rationale for the provision

The University offers this facility for the following reasons which are consistent with its mission:

- It helps to improve the quality of training in child safeguarding and so improves the lives of children and young people
- It offers the opportunity of higher education for a wider range of participants
- It makes links for the University with a wide range of employers in children's services
- It contributes to the social justice agenda

Modules and awards

A small number of modules in safeguarding can currently be offered. Each is worth 20 higher education credits. The first introduces content which is later developed in other modules.

Code	Title
ED4061	Integrated safeguarding of children
ED4062	Questioning skills for professional outcomes
ED4063	Safeguarding Disabled Children
ED4064	Child exploitation and the internet

The following are planned for future development:

ED4065	Assessment analysis and planning
ED4066	Understanding neglect
ED4067	Child development and observation
ED4068	The impact of cultural differences on safeguarding
ED4069	Understanding child behaviour
ED4070	Child safeguarding and the media
ED4071	Childcare legislation

Six modules (120) credits are required for a Certificate in Higher Education. In the future the University intends to develop sufficient modules to offer a Foundation Degree in Safeguarding. This will require 12 modules and 240 credits.

Any credits gained are eligible to be used in an appropriate higher education provided by any university.

Arrangements for teaching and accreditation

Modules are taught by employers through their training programmes. Employers assess the students' assignments and the assessments are moderated and verified by the University staff. Where students are successful they are awarded credit by the University.

Employers can teach the modules using their own staff, or might employ training providers or consultants. Some modules may be taught under licence. David Niven Associates is able to provide the training required at normal market rates.

Teaching and learning

Typically, an employer's training input for a module will be three days of contact time. In addition students will carry out work-based learning activities. A module handbook is provided which lists the learning outcomes, the assessment scheme and offers support for learning and the assessment.

Students are referred to a range of learning resources, texts and online materials. As Bath Spa University students they have full access to the University's library resources, including electronic journals and books.

There is a virtual learning environment (VLE) known as 'Minerva' which is used to provide dedicated learning resources and communication between students and tutors with discussion boards.

Assessment

For each module students are required to complete an assignment which is the equivalent of 5,000 words of written work. However, the assignment might include alternative forms of assessment such as a seminar presentation or an audio-visual presentation.

Assignments are designed to require students to refer to a range of literature and sources on the topic. However, they also allow the learner to reflect upon and to analyse their own practice as a professional. Rather than a theoretical essay, assignments are consistent with the professional needs of the practitioner.

Assignments are assessed by the tutorial staff of the employer and the marking is moderated and verified by the University's programme leader.

Entry requirements for candidates

No formal qualifications are required. However, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- employed in a child care setting, either paid or voluntary
- be CRB checked
- attended statutory multi-agency safeguarding at level 2 (DFES, 2006)

Funding and costs

The modules are funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on a 'co-funding' basis. This means that the employer contributes 50% and HEFCE contributes 50% of the funding. The employer's contribution can be in kind in the form of the teaching and assessment of the modules.

The HEFCE element of the funding goes to the University for the accreditation element of the provision.

The University does not charge fees for students; so there are no additional costs.

Accreditation of the employer

It is the responsibility of the University to ensure the quality of academic standards. In order to offer the modules, an employer must be accredited by the University. A pro-forma asking a series of questions is to be completed for the Academic Office, which then carries out an accreditation visit to ensure the following:

- The premises and location are suitable
- There are sufficient resources for teaching and learning
- Staff are adequately qualified and understand the University's procedures

Qualifications for staff teaching and assessing

Those teaching the module should be sufficiently experienced in the field of practice. Those carrying out assessment of assignments should have the minimum of an honours degree and appropriate experience of the module content.

Support for employers

It is the role of the University to provide support for staff teaching and assessing modules. This can be offered on an individual basis, or they can attend training sessions in groups provided at the University or in a regional location.

Benefits to employers

It is suggested that the following benefits will follow from participation in the scheme:

- Improved recruitment and retention of staff
- A culture of accredited learning
- Increased career aspiration among staff
- Improved quality of service delivery

Reference

DfES (2009) *Working together to safeguard children*, London: TSO.

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