

Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 3 Qualifications in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention

OCN London Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention
Qualification No: 610/7986/8

OCNLR Level 3 Diploma in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention
Qualification No: 610/7990/X

OCN London aims to support learning and widening opportunities by recognising achievement through credit-based courses and qualifications, promoting high standards of excellence and inclusiveness. We are proud of our long-term role and unique history in providing innovative learning solutions for a wide range of learners and particularly those who have not previously benefitted from education.

At the heart of what OCN London offers is:

- a commitment to inclusive credit-based learning;
- the creative use of credit with responsive, demand-led qualification development;
- high quality service and support;
- respect for and encouragement of diversity – in learners and learning approaches, partners and settings;
- the development of people, capacity and resources that will ensure effective business partnerships.

To navigate within this Qualification Guide

To locate a section in this electronic guide, click on the heading in the table of contents, on page 4. To return to the contents page, click again on any major heading within the document. Users can of course also scroll through pages in the usual way.

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General Information

This qualification guide contains details of everything you need to know about the **OCNLR Level 3 Qualifications in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention**. It makes reference to the curriculum areas covered and identifies the learners for whom the qualification has been developed. The guide also covers important aspects of assessment and moderation that are particular to the qualification. The guide should be used by all involved in the delivery and assessment of the qualification. The Account Manager for your Centre will provide support and advice on how to seek approval to offer the qualification.

If you are not yet an OCN London Approved Centre but wish to use these qualifications, then please contact us on enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk for details of the Centre Approval application process.

Qualification Overview

The **OCNLR Level 3 Qualifications in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention** have been developed for adult professionals working with families affected by domestic abuse. They have been developed in collaboration with SafeLives, a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse and who offer a range of related training. The units fit the National Occupational Standards approved by the Sector Skills Council, Skills for Justice.

The qualifications offers practitioners the opportunity to develop the core skills required to offer support to people involved in situations of domestic abuse, and to work to prevent the development of domestic abuse by understanding the characteristics and behaviours of perpetrators and the range of responses a victim may have as well as the diverse needs of both of these client groups.

The mandatory units enable practitioners to further develop the key skills of a domestic abuse practitioner which include supporting families, a range of case management skills, including case review and evaluation, the principles of information sharing and risk management. They also discuss key services available for those involved in domestic abuse as well as the impact of gender issues, wider family violence, safeguarding of children, remedies available under current civil law and the referral of clients to other agencies.

The optional units offer a choice of skills training including understanding the role of an independent domestic violence advisor, the role of a young person's violence advisor, working with older victims of domestic abuse, supporting domestic abuse recovery, and the key skills required to respond to domestic abuse perpetrators and victims of sexual violence.

The **OCNLR Level 3 Qualifications in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention** are regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator for England, and are registered on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). It is not a licence to practise.

Qualification details

This Qualification is available at this level only.

Level 3 Certificate

- Qualification Number: 610/7986/8
- Qualification credit value: 30
- Operational start date: 7th September 2026
- Review date: 30/09/2029
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 300
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 105
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated

Level 3 Diploma

- Qualification Number: 610/7990/X
- Qualification credit value: 42
- Operational start date: 7th September 2026
- Review date: 30/09/2029
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 420
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 147
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated

Purpose of the qualifications

The purpose of the **OCNLR Level 3 Qualifications in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention** is to provide learners with the underpinning skills to offer safe and effective support in carrying out interventions in domestic abuse situations, and when working to prevent situations of domestic abuse from developing. It recognises that there are a variety of roles within the domestic abuse sector (such as outreach, young person's violence advisor, independent domestic violence advisor etc.) and that although there are core skills and knowledge that are universal, each role brings specialist needs. The intention is to offer these specialisms in a way that is flexible and allows learners to develop their skills in a manageable way by studying additional units as and when it suits both the learner and their employer.

Who the qualifications are for

The **OCNLR Level 3 Qualifications in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention** are designed for frontline domestic abuse practitioners whose primary role is to provide specialist support and interventions for individuals and families affected by domestic abuse. They are intended for professionals working directly within domestic abuse services and are not designed as awareness or skills-based qualifications for wider multi-agency professionals whose engagement with domestic abuse forms only part of their role.

The Certificate is aimed at those wishing to qualify to work in one specialist area. The Diploma is designed for practitioners who require a broader qualification, enabling them to develop knowledge and skills across more than one area of domestic abuse practice.

The Diploma may also benefit practitioners who have already achieved the Certificate in one area and wish to extend their expertise into additional specialisms. For example, someone who is a qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) may wish to develop the knowledge and skills required to work with children and young people affected by domestic abuse

Entry guidance

These qualifications are suitable for learners aged 18+.

Progression and related qualifications

These qualifications provide continuing professional development for adult practitioners in the field of domestic abuse may look to progress into further training at Level 4 in a related skill area or post graduate level. They may consider progressing to the **OCNLR Level 4 Award in Skills for Service Managers Working in Gender Based Services**, should they wish to pursue a management role, or further development and progression in other areas of Health and Social Care.

Structure of the qualifications

Rules of combination for achievement

The **OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention qualification** comprises mandatory and optional units. Learners must achieve 30 credits in total.

- 24 credits (4 units) must be taken from the mandatory units
- 6 credits (one unit) from the optional group of units

The **OCNLR Level 3 Diploma in Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Early Intervention qualification** comprises mandatory and optional units. Learners must achieve 42 credits in total.

- 24 credits (4 units) must be taken from the mandatory units
- 18 credits (3 units) from optional group of units

Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
Mandatory					
T/652/3810	PS2/3/LQ/033	Understanding Domestic Abuse	3	6	21
Y/652/3811	PS2/3/LQ/034	The Core Skills of the Domestic Abuse Practitioner	3	6	21
A/652/3812	PS2/3/LQ/035	Implementing Best Practice in Service Delivery	3	6	21
D/652/3813	PS2/3/LQ/036	Whole System Response to Client Risks and Needs	3	6	21
Optional					
F/652/3814	PS2/3/LQ/037	Responding to Older People affected by Domestic Abuse	3	6	21
H/652/3815	PS2/3/LQ/038	Responding to Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse	3	6	21
J/652/3816	PS2/3/LQ/039	Responding to Victims of Sexual Violence	3	6	21
K/652/3817	PS2/3/LQ/040	Understanding the Role of a Young Person's Violence Advisor	3	6	21
L/652/3818	PS2/3/LQ/041	Understanding the Role of an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor	3	6	21

M/652/3819	PS2/3/LQ/042	Supporting Domestic Abuse Recovery	3	6	21
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For unit content please click the Ofqual Unit Reference Number

Assessment and Moderation

Assessment process

The assessment process for these qualifications are as follows:

- The learners are assessed through activities that are internally set by tutor assessors;
- The activities must be designed to enable learners to meet the assessment criteria of the unit;
- Learners' portfolios of assessed evidence must be internally moderated at the Centre;
- The portfolios of assessed evidence will be externally moderated by an OCN London External Moderator.

There is no additional external assessment for these qualifications.

Devising assessments

Each unit has a supplementary page with information on the types of assessment activities that can (indicated as 'Optional' or 'O') and/or must (indicated as 'Prescribed' or 'P') be used to assess learners against the unit. Tutor assessors must always refer to this page before devising assessment tasks.

OCN London assessment guidance relevant to the units in these qualifications are in the ['OCNLR Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors'](#) section of this qualification guide. The guidance includes a general description of the activity and the type of evidence that is appropriate. The activity or activities set must enable the learners to meet the standards detailed in the assessment criteria. Please contact OCN London for further guidance on devising appropriate assessments.

Centre devised assessments should be scrutinised by the Internal Moderator before use to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Centre devised assessments will be scrutinised by the External Moderator to ensure reliability and validity of assessment.

Marking assessment activities

Each activity must be marked against the identified assessment criteria in the unit and judged to be either achieved or not achieved.

Assessors need to ensure that the work in a learner's portfolio is:

- Authentic – it is the result of the learner's own performance or activity;
- Sufficient – enabling the assessor to make a consistent and reliable judgement;
- Adequate – appropriate to the level.

Where a series of activities are set, learners must demonstrate the achievement of the required standard identified in the assessment criteria in all activities. All of the assessment criteria in a unit must be met before the unit is deemed achieved.

The unit achievement is not graded. Units are either achieved or not achieved.

Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of standards in relation to assessment. It:

- compares assessment judgements from different tutor/assessors;
- promotes consistent judgements by different tutor/assessors;
- identifies good practice in assessment;
- promotes the sharing of good practice in assessment between centre staff.

Standardisation events should be held periodically within centres to ensure consistent and effective assessment practice. Standardisation events may also be held by OCN London and it is a requirement that each Centre offering units from these qualifications must contribute assessment materials and learners' evidence for standardisation, if requested.

OCN London will notify Centres of the required sample for standardisation purposes and assessment materials, learners' evidence and tutor feedback may be collected by External Moderators.

Learners with particular requirements

If learners have particular requirements the Centre should refer to the 'Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure' which can be found on our website at: [Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure](#) and gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty, without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

Requirements for tutor/assessors

To be sufficiently competent

In addition to being qualified to make assessment decisions, each assessor must be capable of carrying out the full requirements within the competency of the units they are assessing. This competence should be maintained annually through clearly demonstrable continuing learning and professional development.

Expert witnesses can be used where they have suitable expertise for specialist areas. The use of expert witnesses should be determined and agreed by the assessor.

To be sufficiently knowledgeable

Each assessor should possess relevant knowledge and understanding of the subject and so be able to make robust and reliable assessment decisions in relation to the subject.

Assessment Guidance and Ofqual Level Descriptors

For OCN London's Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptor relevant to these qualifications, please click on the link below.

[Level 3 Assessment Guidance and Ofqual's Level Descriptors](#)



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