



## **Qualification Specification for:**

**OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences and Building Resilience**

➤ **Qualification No: 603/4773/9**

## Qualification Regulation Information

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### OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences and Building Resilience

Qualification Number: 603/4773/9

Operational start date: 15 June 2019  
Operational end date: 31 May 2029  
Certification end date: 31 May 2033

Qualification operational start and end dates indicate the lifecycle of a regulated qualification. The operational end date is the last date by which learners can be registered on a qualification and the certification end date is the last date by which learners can claim their certificate.

All OCN NI regulated qualifications are published to the Register of Regulated Qualifications (<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>). This site shows the qualifications and awarding organisations regulated by CCEA Regulation and Ofqual.

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## Foreword

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This document explains OCN NI's requirements for the delivery and assessment of the following regulated qualification:

- **OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences and Building Resilience**

This specification sets out:

- Qualification features
- Centre requirements for delivering and assessing the qualification
- The structure and content of the qualification
- Unit details
- Assessment requirements for the qualification
- OCN NI's quality assurance arrangements for the qualification
- Administration

OCN NI will notify centres in writing of any major changes to this specification. We will also publish changes on our website at [www.ocnni.org.uk](http://www.ocnni.org.uk)

This specification is provided online, so the version available on our website is the most up to date publication. It is important to note that copies of the specification that have been downloaded and printed may be different from this authoritative online version.

## Contents

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<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>About Regulation</b> .....	<b>5</b>
OCN NI.....	5
<b>Qualification Features</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Sector Subject Area .....	6
Qualification Aim .....	6
Qualification Objectives.....	6
Grading .....	6
Qualification Target Group .....	6
Progression Opportunities.....	6
Qualification Support.....	7
Entry Requirements.....	7
Delivery Languages.....	7
<b>Centre Requirements for Delivering the Qualification</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval.....	8
Centre Staffing .....	8
Tutors.....	8
Assessors.....	8
Internal Verification.....	8
<b>Structure and Content</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Unit Details</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Quality Assurance of Centre Performance</b> .....	<b>15</b>
External Verification .....	15
Standardisation .....	15
<b>Administration</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Registration .....	16
Certification .....	16
Charges.....	16
Equality, Fairness and Inclusion.....	16
Retention of Evidence .....	16

## About Regulation

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### OCN NI

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a regulated Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. OCN NI is regulated by CCEA Regulation to develop and award professional and technical (vocational) qualifications from Entry Level up to and including Level 5 across all sector areas. In addition, OCN NI is regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualification types in England.

All OCN NI regulated qualifications are published to the Register of Regulated Qualifications (<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>). This site shows the qualifications and awarding organisations regulated by CCEA Regulation and Ofqual.

### The Regulated Qualifications Framework: an overview

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015: the RQF provides a single framework for all regulated qualifications.

#### Qualification Level

The level indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels (Levels 1-8) supported by three 'entry' levels (Entry 1-3).

#### Qualification Size

Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT), and the part of that time typically spent being taught or supervised, rather than studying alone, is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

For further information about the RQF see:

<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/blog/regulated-qualifications-framework-rqf/>

## Qualification Features

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### Sector Subject Area

1.3 Health and social care

### Qualification Aim

The issue of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) has shown to feature significantly in subsequent mental health and well-being issues experienced by individuals. An understanding of these issues will assist individuals in supporting those with mental health and well-being issues. The OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences and Building Resilience has been developed to provide an understanding of the nature of ACE, identification of those at risk, and strategies for individuals to assist others, build resilience and address the adverse impact of ACE.

### Qualification Objectives

The objectives of the qualification are to enable learners to understand:

- the nature of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and their impact on society and the individual
- how to respond to Adverse Childhood Experiences by building resilience
- how service delivery can be transformed to develop resilience, and
- the application of holistic self-care and emotional resilience within the workplace

### Grading

Grading for this qualification is pass/fail.

### Qualification Target Group

The qualification is targeted at learners who wish to add to their knowledge and skills in the area of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

### Progression Opportunities

The OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences and Building Resilience will allow learners to progress to higher level qualifications in the health and social care sector, and/or support career development.

### **Qualification Support**

A Qualification Support pack is available for OCN NI centres within the login area of the OCN NI website (<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/my-account/>), which includes additional support for teachers, eg planning and assessment templates, guides to best practice, etc.

### **Entry Requirements**

There are no specific entry requirements for this qualification although learners should be at least 18 years old to complete the qualification.

### **Delivery Languages**

This qualification is available in English only at this time. If you wish to offer this qualification in Welsh or Irish (Gaeilge) then please contact OCN NI who will review demand and provide as appropriate.

## Centre Requirements for Delivering the Qualification

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### Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval

New and existing OCN NI recognised centres must apply for and be granted approval to deliver the qualification prior to the commencement of delivery.

### Centre Staffing

Centres are required to have the following roles in place as a minimum, although a member of staff may hold more than one role\*:

- Centre contact
- Programme Co-ordinator
- Tutor
- Assessor
- Internal Verifier

\*Note: A person cannot be an internal verifier for their own assessments.

### Tutors

Tutors delivering the qualification should be occupationally competent, qualified to at least one level higher than the qualification and have a minimum of one year's relevant experience.

### Assessors

The qualifications are assessed within the centre and are subject to OCN NI's quality assurance processes. Units are achieved through internally set, internally assessed, and internally verified evidence.

#### **Assessors must:**

- be occupationally competent and qualified to at least one level higher than the qualification
- have a minimum of one year's relevant experience in the area they are assessing
- have direct or related relevant experience in assessment
- assess all assessment tasks and activities

### Internal Verification

OCN NI qualifications must be scrutinised through the centre's internal quality assurance processes as part of the recognised centre agreement with OCN NI. The centre must appoint an experienced and trained centre internal verifier whose responsibility is to act as the internal quality monitor for the verification of the delivery and assessment of the qualifications.



The centre must agree a working model for internal verification with OCN NI prior to delivery of the qualifications.

***Internal Verifiers must:***

- have at least one year's occupational experience in the areas they are internally verifying
- attend OCN NI's internal verifier training if not already completed

Internal verifiers are required to:

- support tutors and assessors
- sample assessments according to the centre's sampling strategy
- ensure tasks are appropriate to the level being assessed
- maintain up-to-date records supporting the verification of assessment and learner achievement

## Structure and Content

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In order to achieve the qualification learners must complete both units – 14 credits.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification: 140 hours  
 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this qualification: 60 hours

Unit Reference Number	OCN NI Unit Code	Unit Title	TQT	Credit Value	Level
<a href="#">A/617/6641</a>	CBE546	Understanding the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Development of Resilience	70	7	Four
<a href="#">F/617/6642</a>	CBE547	Responding to Adverse Childhood Experiences by Building Resilience	70	7	Four

## Unit Details

Title	Understanding the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Development of Resilience	
Level	Four	
Credit Value	7	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	30	
OCN NI Unit Code	CBE546	
Unit Reference No	A/617/6641	
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand the nature of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), their impact on society and the individual, and development of resilience.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	
1. Understand the nature of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).	1.1 Examine the origins, methods, and findings of the following research into ACE: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study (Felitti et al, 1998)</li> <li>ACE research undertaken by Nadine Burke Harris in 2011 and subsequent research</li> </ol> 1.2 Research what is meant by ACE and how they can be identified.	
2. Understand the impact of ACE.	2.1 Analyse the prevalence of ACE and their impact on wider society and in a given region. 2.2 Explain why having a knowledge of ACE is important in a given discipline or profession. 2.3 Summarise the neurobiology of early life toxic stress and the long-term consequences of having a high ACE score. 2.4 Explain the potential impact of childhood adversity on learning and cognition and social relationships.	
3. Be aware of psychological research on relationships, attachment and adolescence.	3.1 Summarise at least three theories of attachment and their linkage to healthy development and relationships. 3.2 Summarise at least two theories of adolescent development. 3.3 Summarise the main findings on the development of the adolescent brain and its impact on behaviour.	
4. Understand what is meant by resilience and models for its development.	4.1 Research strategies which may support the development of resilience. 4.2 Examine well known or emerging theoretical models that underpin the following resilience programmes including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cognitive and behavioural approaches</li> <li>Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)</li> <li>mindfulness</li> </ol>	
<b>Assessment Guidance</b>		
The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.		
<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Possible Content</b>
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation

	OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
E-assessment	The use of information technology to assess learners' work	Electronic portfolio E-tests

Title	Responding to Adverse Childhood Experiences by Building Resilience	
Level	Four	
Credit Value	7	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	30	
OCN NI Unit Code	CBE547	
Unit Reference No	F/617/6642	
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand how to respond to Adverse Childhood Experiences by building resilience.		
Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria	
1. Understand how service delivery can be transformed to develop resilience.	1.1. Identify the characteristics of an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) informed resilience programme. 1.2. Explain the importance of developing resilience. 1.3. Research interventions, strategies and resources that can be used to develop resilience. 1.4. Analyse at least three reasons that support the need for trauma-informed care in given discipline or profession. 1.5. Summarise the key features of trauma-informed care for given discipline or profession and its impact on service delivery.	
2. Be able to develop a response to ACE using a building resilience approach.	2.1. Summarise the factors associated with successful implementation of evidence-based resilience programmes. 2.2. Explain the rationale for utilising a whole of community or organisational approach as an effective model for developing resilience. 2.3. Evaluate current strategies used to build resilience in a given area. 2.4. Create and evaluate an effective intervention strategy and/or resource that may be used in a given area to build resilience of a given target group. 2.5. Evaluate own role and boundaries of own role when implementing resilience programmes within a given area.	
3. Understand the application of holistic self-care and emotional resilience within the workplace.	3.1. Define what is meant by emotional resilience. 3.2. Explain the importance of holistic self-care. 3.3. Summarise the different areas that contribute to emotional self-care and how these can be embedded into the workplace. 3.4. Clarify how a system of reflective practice can improve staff well-being and resilience.	
Assessment Guidance		
The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.		
Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary

	to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
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## Quality Assurance of Centre Performance

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### External Verification

All OCN NI recognised centres are subject to External Verification. External verification visits and monitoring activities will be conducted annually to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of recognition, review the centre's risk rating for the qualifications and to assure OCN NI of the maintenance of the integrity of the qualifications.

The External Verifier will review the delivery and assessment of the qualifications. This will include the review of a sample of assessment evidence and evidence of the internal verification of assessment and assessment decisions. This will form the basis of the EV report and will inform OCN NI's annual assessment of centre compliance and risk. The External Verifier is appointed by OCN NI.

### Standardisation

As a process, standardisation is designed to ensure consistency and promote good practice in understanding and application of standards. Standardisation events:

- make qualified statements about the level of consistency in assessment across centres delivering a qualification
- make statements on the standard of evidence that is required to meet the assessment criteria for units in a qualification
- make recommendations on assessment practice
- produce advice and guidance for the assessment of units
- identify good practice in assessment and internal verification

Centres offering units of an OCN NI qualification must attend and contribute assessment materials and learner evidence for standardisation events if requested.

OCN NI will notify centres of the nature of sample evidence required for standardisation events (this will include assessment materials, learner evidence and relevant assessor and internal verifier documentation). OCN NI will make standardisation summary reports available and correspond directly with centres regarding event outcomes.

## Administration

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### Registration

A centre must register learners within 20 working days of commencement of a qualification.

### Certification

Certificates will be issued to centres within 20 working days of receipt of correctly completed results marksheets. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that certificates received from OCN NI are held securely and distributed to learners promptly and securely.

### Charges

OCN NI publishes all up to date qualification fees in its Fees and Invoicing Policy document. Further information can be found on the centre login area of the OCN NI website.

### Equality, Fairness and Inclusion

OCN NI has considered the requirements of equalities legislation in developing the specification for these qualifications. For further information and guidance relating to access to fair assessment and the OCN NI Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations policies, centres should refer to the OCN NI website.

### Retention of Evidence

OCN NI has published guidance for centres on the retention of evidence. Details are provided in the OCN NI Centre Handbook and can be accessed via the OCN NI website.



## **OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences and Building Resilience**

**Qualification Number: 603/4773/9**

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Operational start date: 15 June 2019  
Operational end date: 31 May 2029  
Certification end date: 31 May 2033

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