

GET QUALIFIED IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The **NOCN Certificate in Community Development** at Fircroft College has been developed for anyone who is directly engaged, or is becoming engaged, in community development work. It also caters for the increasing and diverse number of workers employed in related occupations whose practice now includes community development work. These include workers in health and social care, education, community safety, environmental development, childcare, leisure services and regeneration.



This qualification is suitable for people who already possess an understanding of community development work and want to develop specific skills and knowledge. It is particularly suitable for those who already have experience in the field or want professional development opportunities and career progression.

The course will enable you to:

- Understand the nature of different communities of locality, identity and interest.
- Understand the communities in which they live and work
- Enable communities to identify their needs
- Gain skills to work collectively with those communities
- Gain knowledge to support communities
- Refresh and update their skills and knowledge in working with and within communities
- Engage people in community development
- Work in partnerships
- Work with diversity
- Work with groups
- Develop confidence in their ability to learn and to recognise the value of their communities
- Understand the importance of people learning from each other

The Certificate is available at Level 2 or 3. At present each requires three mandatory units to be completed. For level 2 a further three units need to be undertaken. For level 3 a further four need to be undertaken. Further details of the content for each unit will be given on application. **Attendance and completion of the accreditation for all courses is required for the full certificate.**

What our students say...



"There was a good mix of theory and practical...I felt all the sessions were very useful."

"In my wildest dreams I could not imagine just how fantastic this course would be. The teaching style is wonderful for me and the content of the course was really good and solid."

"I found all the classes and sessions interesting and challenging."

"Being a resident has helped me to develop relationships with team members and also to focus on the work."

"Teaching is pitched to individual needs really well."

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Current Course Content*

Reflective Community Work Practice

- understanding roles and responsibilities, recognising own values & effectiveness of own work.

Practice & Principles in Community

Development Work – understanding community development work, national policies and the role of the community worker.

Social Justice – understand concepts of social justice, power relationships, diversity, oppression and discrimination.

Community Consultation – understanding the value of consulting communities and how consultation and participation work can improve an area or community.

Identifying Needs in Communities – understanding how need with communities is determined, planning & implementing a community profile/appraisal, handling data.

Community Development Monitoring and Evaluation – understand approaches to monitoring and evaluation and the contribution it can make to improving community development practice.

For the Level 3 Certificate, students need to complete a seventh module.

** The NOCN Certificate is changing during 2009 to reflect the new National Occupational Standards for Community Work, which were updated in May 2009. The exact content and structure of the new Certificate has yet to be published by NOCN but should be ready by September 2009. We intend to incorporate these developments in the delivery of the Certificate in the next programme starting in December 2009.*

When is the course?

Starting in December 2009 and running until June 2010, the NOCN Certificate in Community development runs over six (seven at level 3) short weekend courses, once a month: 4-6 Dec, 15-17 Jan, 12-14 Feb, 19-21 Mar, 23-25 Apr, 21-23 May, 25-27 Jun.

All courses are residential. Students will arrive at the College on Friday evening and leave on Sunday evening. Being in residence gives you the opportunity to really focus on your learning without outside distractions. You will be able to work with and gain support from tutors and fellow students, as well as take advantage of access to library, IT rooms and other resources and facilities.

Is there a cost?

Yes, the full Community Development Certificate will cost £420 for someone coming from a voluntary organisation, or £975 if from the statutory sector. This covers all residential accommodation costs, food, teaching, course materials and certification with NOCN.

How do I apply?

You can get more information about this course and how to apply from the course co-ordinator Iain Sharp – contact him at iain.sharp@fircroft.ac.uk or phone **(0121) 472 0116**. In Iain's absence, please contact Yvonne Godwin on the same number or email yvonne.godwin@fircroft.ac.uk

