



Cymorth i Ferched Cymru
Welsh Women's Aid

Rhoi Merched a Phlant yn Gyntaf
Putting Women & Children First

ACCREDITED TRAINING PROGRAMME

What is Accredited Training?

Accredited training offers the opportunity to validate training in domestic abuse. Having a recognised qualification in a specialist area validates the knowledge and skills base of staff working within Women's Aid groups and external agencies in Wales who provide services to women and children, and raise awareness of domestic abuse.

Why do we need Accredited Training?

The Welsh Assembly Government education and life long learning agenda provides the impetus for ensuring that all staff have the opportunity to develop new and enhance existing skills within the workplace. This is set out within the strategic direction and policy framework, highlighting a more flexible and accessible form of training. Having a qualified, skilled and informed workforce illustrates the quality of services provided to the women and children who use them.

Accredited Domestic Abuse training raises awareness of the issues and ensures that training in this specialised field is recognised.

"Flexibility and relevance will be at the core of the system. The planning of learning delivery will ensure the flexibility to respond to demand, with Sector Skills Councils a key influence. A new generation of credit-based vocational qualifications will be better-matched to employer and learner needs. High-quality information, advice and guidance will help learners to develop their skills and realise their ambitions." (WAG – Skills that Work for Wales)

Who validates and accredits Domestic Abuse Training?

Welsh Women's Aid, working with the Women's Aid Federations of Scotland, Northern Ireland and England, examined and evaluated the different routes to accreditation. Having a core curriculum and subject areas enabled debate around the most appropriate form of accreditation. The need for flexibility, the ability to develop specialised accredited training, and accessibility were key to the choice of accreditation provider.

Welsh Women's Aid, in line with the other UK Federations, opted to work with the **National Open College Network (NOCN)** and in particular, the **Open College Network (OCN) Wales**. This decision mirrors the aspirations of the Welsh Assembly Government in the development of qualifications that encompass employer and learner needs.

Welsh Women's Aid is recognised as an OCN Centre to deliver NOCN Qualifications. As well as providing accredited training, specialist units of learning can be written and accredited. This provides unique qualifications in domestic abuse training.

What are NOCN Qualifications?

NOCN or OCN qualifications are credit based units of learning at different levels.

What are Credits and Levels?

Credits indicate the quantity of your learning achievements which will be awarded at one or more levels.

- Level One is comparable to NVQ1, Foundation GNVQ and GCSE grades D-G.
- Level Two is comparable to NVQ2, Intermediate GNVQ and GCSE grades A*-C.
- Level Three is comparable to NVQ3, A Level, AS Level and AVCE.

What about higher level qualifications?

Credit based learning is in unit form; this means that progression awards such as Certificates and Diplomas can be developed using units as the building blocks. There will be a set of core units at different levels with different numbers of credits, along with specific units such as children's services, mental health and housing, that can be chosen to 'build' a progression award.

What does Welsh Women's Aid Offer?

As a Centre, Welsh Women's Aid offer a range of OCN qualifications including Domestic Abuse Awareness, the Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children, and Training the Trainer.

Welsh Women's Aid is currently writing specific units at different levels to be added to the accredited training portfolio, to offer a range of training both internally and externally.

Welsh Women's Aid welcome working with external organisations to develop and write units that will further raise awareness and inform others of domestic abuse and its impact.

For a full outline of units available or for more information please contact:

Colette Morgan, Accreditation Project Coordinator
Tel: 029 20 390 874

Welsh Women's Aid
38-48 Crwys Road,
Cardiff CF24 4NN

Tel 02920 390874

Fax 02920 390878

Email info@welshwomensaid.org.uk

www.welshwomensaid.org