Professionalising the youth justice workforce is critical to improving outcomes for young people.

The Youth Justice Professional Framework (YJPF) provides exciting, flexible opportunities for all staff working in youth justice (secure and community) to develop their professional skills and knowledge progressively through to post-graduate level.

Founded on the principle of open learning, it is available to all people irrespective of educational experience. The Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate (YJEPC), which has already been undertaken by over 1000 people, is already embedded within the framework.

'I felt that it was time for new challenges which would add to my skills and knowledge base. The personal achievement I felt when I passed the YJEPC was enormous'.
- Youth Justice Practitioner

The Foundation Degree is for all staff working in secure or community settings, or those who wish to do so and provides the skills and knowledge central to practice.

'I would now like to complete the foundation degree as I feel I have found the career that I am passionate about and I would embrace the opportunity to be able to gain further qualifications so that I may be able to progress further. I am interested in helping young people to start making positive changes to their lifestyles.’
- YOT based Police Officer
The Foundation Degree comprises four modules.

Exploring Youth Justice (Module 1) and Effective Practice in Youth Justice (Module 3) provide the foundations of knowledge and theory that are required in order to practice effectively. They cover a range of topics central to practice in youth justice and are based on the best available evidence of what works.

‘I can honestly say that a lot of the principles from the YJEPC have stuck with me and help me in my daily practice at work.’ Prison officer

Practice Skills Awards 1 and 2 focus on developing and demonstrating skills in the workplace by compiling a range of evidence in their PSA Logbook. These will be skills that staff will already be deploying – the course will help them to demonstrate these and to reflect on their practice so that this can be assessed. The topics covered in PSAs relate directly to the eight areas of the Youth Justice Skills Matrix.

As the YJEPC is the direct equivalent of Module 3 of the Foundation Degree it means that those who have completed it already have a quarter of the Foundation Degree. With a modest top up, those with the Professional Certificate in Effective Practice (PCEP) will also have a quarter of the Foundation Degree.

The distance learning delivery model is based on the tried and tested approach used to deliver the Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate (YJEPC) comprising high quality digital resources, textbooks and support from highly experienced tutors. The 80% completion rate of the YJEPC is very high compared to other professional courses and is testimony to the success of this approach.

‘The support I have received, the resources and the clear, well-organised structure of the course far exceed academic courses I have studied previously.’ Youth Justice Practitioner

If you would like further information about the Foundation Degree or elements within it, please contact Martin Stephenson
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