

# Protective Services

## FdSc Youth Justice Practitioner Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ)

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**Campus:** Dearne Valley College

**Code:** D14SP09

### About This Course

The qualification is designed to:

explore the diverse and changing context of youth justice,

supporting learners to develop knowledge and understanding of the specific needs of children and young people, including the issues impacting their identity and development, with a specific focus on crime, criminal behaviour and responses to these issues.

### What Will I Study?

#### Introduction to Youth Justice:

Overview of the development of the youth justice system in England & Wales

Relevant policy,  
legislation, welfare & justice models

Organisations  
which make up the YJS; roles, statutory duties and differing approaches.

Age of criminal  
responsibility

Factors leading to  
involvement with YJS

Diversionary and  
Court imposed outcomes

### **Child First' Youth Justice:**

Four tenets of  
'Child First'

Development of  
Child First evidence base

Focus on  
child-centred, collaborative approaches which divert children & young people  
from YJS

Application of  
'Child First' evidence base in practice across YJS

Opportunities  
& challenges for practitioners.

## **Children & Young People: Needs, Rights & Equality:**

Diverse needs  
& identity of children & young people in  
YJS

Age, maturity,  
ethnicity, gender, neurodiversity, care status &  
vulnerability

Transitions for  
children & young people in YJS – adulthood, custody & community  
resettlement.

Rights &  
equality for justice involved children

Disproportionality, bias, intersectionality, cultural difference  
& competency.

Advocating for children, young people  
& their families.

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## **Assessment and Decision Making:**

Concepts, theories  
& factors relevant to children & young people's offending including risk  
vs. safety.

Different  
approaches to & purposes of assessing justice involved children & young  
people

Holistic

assessment, use of assessment tools, sentencing planning, implementation & review.

Importance of

professional judgement, appropriate & defensible decision making & evidence informed assessments.

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### **Contextual Safeguarding:**

Contextual harms

which pose a risk to children including criminal & sexual exploitation

Policy &

legislative responses

Practice

approaches to prevention, protection & safety planning.

Concepts of

victims, vulnerability & victimisation including victim / offender overlap

External factors

leading to criminalisation including; educational exclusion & being in care

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### **Professionalism and Collaborative Practice:**

\_Accountability, ethics & values

in youth justice practice

Principles of  
effective team & partnership working

Legislative  
requirements & information  
sharing

Managing inter  
& intra agency conflict & appropriate  
challenge

Opportunities  
& challenges to effective collaborative  
working.

## Why Study Here?

- Stepping back into education as an adult isn't just about gaining a qualification; it's about a total personal evolution. At **Dearne Valley College**, we don't just offer Level 4 courses—we offer a gateway to the next version of you.

### Your Next Great Adventure Starts Here

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Imagine the thrill of walking into a space where your life experience is valued and your potential is limitless. Investing in a Level 4 qualification is the ultimate power move. It's the moment you transition from "getting by" to "getting ahead," mastering complex skills that set you apart in a competitive global market.

This is more than a classroom; it's a launchpad. Whether you are pivoting careers or climbing the executive ladder, the journey is exhilarating. You'll be pushed, you'll be challenged, and ultimately, you will exceed even your own expectations.

## **Built on a Foundation of Excellence**

Our community is driven by a shared mission. We operate with **integrity**, ensuring that your hard work is met with the highest standards of support and professional ethics. We pride ourselves on being **inclusive**, removing the barriers that have held you back in the past, and celebrating a **diverse** student body where every perspective fuels innovation.

## **The Power of “One Team”**

At Dearne Valley, you are never flying solo. We operate as **one team**. From our industry-expert tutors to your fellow adult learners, we move forward together. You'll find a network of peers who share your drive, creating a high-energy environment where success is contagious.

## **Why choose this path?**

**Professional  
Mastery:** Gain  
high-level technical knowledge that commands respect.

**Personal Growth:** Prove to yourself that you can  
conquer new heights.

**Future-Proofing:** Secure your place in the modern economy with advanced expertise.

## Entry Requirements

Level 3 equivalent in a related topic, Maths & English grades 4 or above.

## How To Apply

Apply online through the [Dearne Valley College website](#)

## What Courses Can I Progress Onto?

Potential  
level 6 provision

## Tuition Fees

Fees apply; financial support and loans available. Contact 01909 504500 for details

### PLEASE NOTE

We make every effort to ensure information within our online course directory is accurate and a true representation of the courses we are offering in 2026-27. However, we do reserve the right to make changes if necessary.

**Last updated:** 15th February 2026