

# 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.

## **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.

## **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

### **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**

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:** 7th July 2026