



## Qualification Specification for:

**OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness**

➤ **Qualification No: 610/0591/5**

## Qualification Regulation Information

---

### OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness

Qualification Number: 610/0591/5

Operational start date: 15 March 2022

Operational end date: 28 February 2027

Certification end date: 28 February 2029

Qualification operational start and end dates indicate the lifecycle of a regulated qualification. The operational end date is the last date by which learners can be registered on a qualification and the certification end date is the last date by which learners have to complete the qualification and claim their certificate.

All OCN NI regulated qualifications are published to the Register of Regulated Qualifications ( <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/> ). This site shows the qualifications and awarding organisations regulated by CCEA Regulation and Ofqual.

### OCN NI Contact Details

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI)  
Sirius House  
10 Heron Road  
Belfast  
BT3 9LE

Phone: 028 90463990

Web: [www.ocnni.org.uk](http://www.ocnni.org.uk)

## Foreword

---

This document explains OCN NI's requirements for the delivery and assessment of the following regulated qualification:

→ **OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness**

This specification sets out:

- Qualification features
- Centre requirements for delivering and assessing the qualifications
- The structure and content of the qualifications
- Unit Details
- Assessment requirements for the qualification
- OCN NI's quality assurance arrangements for the qualifications
- Administration

OCN NI will notify centres in writing of any major changes to this specification. We will also publish changes on our website at [www.ocni.org.uk](http://www.ocni.org.uk)

This specification is provided online, so the version available on our website is the most up to date publication. It is important to note that copies of the specification that have been downloaded and printed may be different from this authoritative online version.

## Contents

---

<b>About Regulation .....</b>	<b>5</b>
OCN NI.....	5
<b>Qualification Features.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Sector Subject Area .....	6
Qualification Aim .....	6
Grading .....	6
Qualification Target Group .....	6
Progression Opportunities.....	6
Entry Requirements.....	6
Qualification Support.....	7
Delivery Languages.....	7
<b>Centre Requirements for Delivering the Qualification .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval .....	8
Centre Staffing .....	8
Tutors .....	8
Assessors.....	8
Internal Verification.....	9
<b>Structure and Content .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Unit Details.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Quality Assurance of Centre Performance .....</b>	<b>13</b>
External Verification .....	13
Standardisation .....	13
<b>Administration .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Registration .....	14
Certification .....	14
Charges.....	14
Equality, Fairness and Inclusion.....	14
Retention of Evidence .....	14

## About Regulation

---

### OCN NI

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a regulated Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. OCN NI is regulated by CCEA Regulation to develop and award professional and technical (vocational) qualifications from Entry Level up to and including Level 5 across all sector areas. In addition, OCN NI is regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualification types in England.

### The Regulated Qualifications Framework: an overview

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015: the RQF provides a single framework for all regulated qualifications.

#### Qualification Level

The level indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels (Levels 1-8) supported by three 'entry' levels (Entry 1-3).

#### Qualification Size

Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT), and the part of that time typically spent being taught or supervised, rather than studying alone, is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

## Qualification Features

---

### Sector Subject Area

1.3 Health and social care

### Qualification Aim

The aim of the OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness is to provide learners with an understanding of different aspects of loneliness and signpost individuals to appropriate support.

### Qualification Objectives

The objectives of the OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness are to provide learners with the knowledge and skills to enable them to:

- understand what is meant by loneliness and isolation
- understand causes and impact of loneliness and isolation
- be aware of support available to address loneliness and isolation
- know how to develop a plan for programme to address loneliness or isolation

### Grading

Grading for this qualification is pass/fail.

### Qualification Target Group

The OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness is targeted at learners who intend to or are currently working with individuals who are experiencing loneliness and/or isolation.

### Progression Opportunities

The OCN NI Level 2 Award Awareness of Loneliness will enable learners to progress to other Level 2 health and social care qualifications or higher level qualifications within this sector or into employment.

### Entry Requirements

Learners must be at least 16 years of age and have experience or an interest in caring for individuals experiencing loneliness and/or isolation.

### **Qualification Support**

A Qualification Support pack is available for OCN NI centres within the login area of the OCN NI website (<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/my-account/>), which includes additional support for teachers, eg planning and assessment templates, guides to best practice, etc.

### **Delivery Languages**

This qualification is available in English only at this time. If you wish to offer the qualification in Welsh or Irish (Gaeilge) then please contact OCN NI who will review demand and provide as appropriate.

## Centre Requirements for Delivering the Qualification

---

### Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval

New and existing OCN NI recognised centres must apply for and be granted approval to deliver these qualifications prior to the commencement of delivery.

### Centre Staffing

Centres are required to have the following roles in place as a minimum, although a member of staff may hold more than one role\*:

- Centre contact
- Programme co-ordinator
- Assessor
- Internal Verifier

\*Note: A person cannot be an internal verifier for any evidence they have assessed.

### Tutors

Tutors delivering the qualification should be occupationally competent, qualified to at least one level higher than the qualification and have a minimum of one year's relevant experience.

### Assessors

The qualifications are assessed within the centre and are subject to OCN NI's quality assurance processes. Units are achieved through internally set, internally assessed, and internally verified evidence.

#### **Assessors must:**

- be occupationally competent and qualified to at least one level higher than the qualification
- have a minimum of one year's relevant experience
- have direct or related relevant experience in assessment
- assess all assessment tasks and activities



### **Internal Verification**

OCN NI qualifications must be scrutinised through the centre's internal quality assurance processes as part of the recognised centre agreement with OCN NI. The centre must appoint an experienced and trained internal verifier whose responsibility is to act as the internal quality monitor for the verification of the delivery and assessment of the qualifications.

The centre must agree a working model for internal verification with OCN NI prior to delivery of the qualification.

#### ***Internal Verifiers must:***

- have at least one year's occupational experience in the areas they are internally verifying
- attend OCN NI's internal verifier training if not already completed

Internal verifiers are required to:

- support tutors and assessors
- sample assessments according to the centre's sampling strategy
- ensure tasks are appropriate to the level being assessed
- maintain up-to-date records supporting the verification of assessment and learner achievement

## Structure and Content

---

### OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness

To achieve the OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness learners must successfully complete the one unit – 3 credits.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification: 30 hours  
 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this qualification: 20 hours

Unit Reference Number	OCN NI Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Value	TQT	GLH	Level
<a href="#">T/650/1553</a>	CBF752	Understanding Loneliness and Isolation	3	30	20	Two

## Unit Details

Title	Understanding Loneliness and Isolation
Level	Two
Credit Value	3
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	20
OCN NI Unit Code	CBF752
Unit Reference No	T/650/1553
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand loneliness and isolation, its impact on individuals and strategies to address these.	
Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand what is meant by loneliness and isolation.	1.1. Define what is meant by both loneliness and isolation and the differences between them. 1.2. Describe how societal change has impacted on the levels of loneliness and isolation. 1.3. Describe why it important to address loneliness and isolation at an individual and societal level.
2. Understand the causes and impact of loneliness and isolation.	2.1. Summarise the main causes of loneliness and isolation. 2.2. Describe how loneliness and isolation may impact an individual's mental and physical health. 2.3. Describe how transitions in life may act as triggers to loneliness and isolation. 2.4. Compare the impact of loneliness and isolation on younger and older individuals and how they are experienced by both groups.
3. Be aware of the support available to address loneliness and isolation.	3.1. Summarise the main ways loneliness and isolation may be addressed. 3.2. Describe the support available to individuals experiencing loneliness and isolation and how it can be accessed.
4. Know how to develop a programme plan to address loneliness or isolation.	4.1. Summarise the key features of a programme to address loneliness or isolation in a group of individuals. 4.2. Describe the possible impact of stigma and other barriers to participation in a programme to address loneliness or isolation. 4.3. Develop a programme plan to address loneliness or isolation in a group of individuals.

### Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course	Learner notes/written work Learner log/diary Peer notes Record of observation Record of discussion
Practical demonstration/assignment	A practical demonstration of a skill/situation selected by the tutor or by learners, to enable learners to practise and apply skills and knowledge	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Learner log
Coursework	Research or projects that count towards a learner's final outcome and demonstrate the skills and/or knowledge gained throughout the course	Record of observation Learner notes/written work Tutor notes/record Learner log/diary
E-assessment	The use of information technology to assess learners' work	Electronic portfolio E-tests

## Quality Assurance of Centre Performance

---

### External Verification

All OCN NI recognised centres are subject to External Verification. External verification visits and monitoring activities will be conducted annually to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of recognition, review the centre's risk rating for the qualification and to assure OCN NI of the maintenance of the integrity of the qualification.

The External Verifier will review the delivery and assessment of this qualification. This will include the review of a sample of assessment evidence and evidence of the internal verification of assessment and assessment decisions. This will form the basis of the External Verification report and will inform OCN NI's annual assessment of centre compliance and risk. The External Verifier is appointed by OCN NI.

### Standardisation

As a process, standardisation is designed to ensure consistency and promote good practice in understanding and the application of standards. Standardisation events:

- make qualified statements about the level of consistency in assessment across centres delivering a qualification
- make statements on the standard of evidence that is required to meet the assessment criteria for units in a qualification
- make recommendations on assessment practice
- produce advice and guidance for the assessment of units
- identify good practice in assessment and internal verification

Centres offering units of an OCN NI qualification must attend and contribute assessment materials and learner evidence for standardisation events if requested.

OCN NI will notify centres of the nature of sample evidence required for standardisation events (this will include assessment materials, learner evidence and relevant assessor and internal verifier documentation). OCN NI will make standardisation summary reports available and correspond directly with centres regarding event outcomes.

## Administration

---

### Registration

A centre must register learners within 20 working days of commencement of a qualification.

### Certification

Certificates will be issued to centres within 20 working days of receipt of correctly completed results marksheets. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that certificates received from OCN NI are held securely and distributed to learners promptly and securely.

### Charges

OCN NI publishes all up to date qualification fees in its Fees and Invoicing Policy document. Further information can be found on the centre login area of the OCN NI website.

### Equality, Fairness and Inclusion

OCN NI has considered the requirements of equalities legislation in developing the specification for these qualifications. For further information and guidance relating to access to fair assessment and the OCN NI Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations policies, centres should refer to the OCN NI website.

### Retention of Evidence

OCN NI has published guidance for centres on the retention of evidence. Details are provided in the OCN NI Centre Handbook and can be accessed via the OCN NI website.

**OCN NI Level 2 Award in Awareness of Loneliness**  
**Qualification Number: 610/0591/5**

---

Operational start date: 15 March 2022  
Operational end date: 28 February 2027  
Certification end date: 28 February 2029

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI)  
Sirius House  
10 Heron Road  
Belfast  
BT3 9LE

Phone: 028 90463990  
Web: [www.ocnni.org.uk](http://www.ocnni.org.uk)