



Module Specification

Understanding Vulnerability and Investigation

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Understanding Vulnerability and Investigation

Module code: UZSJQK-40-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 40

ECTS credit rating: 20

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Sociology and Criminology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module will provide an introduction to a range of public protection issues as they relate to legislation, the application of theories of crime and victimisation, research evidence, public policy and policing practice.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module will focus broadly on issues of vulnerability and risk and frame learning around the THRIVE model (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation

Opportunities, Vulnerability of the victim and the Engagement level required to resolve the issue). The module will include aspects of valuing difference and inclusion, counter terrorism and some aspects of digital policing but also explore the underpinning theoretical evidence and how research informs this evidence.

Outline syllabus: This module will focus on issues of public protection, safeguarding and key definitions, legislation and associated guidance. Framed around high profile cases of abuse it will demonstrate the depth and breadth of such incidents and theoretical concepts from the discipline of criminology and victimology that help understand and police effectively.

Learners will be engaged in the analysis required for social research practices that focus on a contemporary safeguarding issue and introduced to the topic of vulnerability in the context of operational policing and the national drivers for the police service in providing a professional and ethical service to people at risk.

Learners will gain knowledge of some of the personal aspects of vulnerability and how other external factors can result in harm, or risk of harm to a vulnerable person, to enable appreciation of the importance of appropriate support by the police and within the criminal justice system, e.g. special measures.

Building on this focus on vulnerability, learners will develop their understanding of the core principles of ethics, equality, diversity and human rights in professional policing and the way in which individual and organisational bias, prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping can be challenged.

Core subjects include missing people, sexual offences, hate crimes, domestic abuse, complex harm (such as honour based violence) as well as mental health and child protection. Counter terrorism and issues of radicalisation.

Taking public protection and vulnerability issues further learners will develop their understanding about digital policing, local force strategy and gain an appreciation of the prevalence of technology and devices in modern society and how it may be used in everyday policing, and facilitate internet-based crime.

Learners will learn about appropriate initial police responses to a crime scene involving digital devices and how to provide support to victims of internet-facilitated crime, although generic issues are covered in the Craft Skills module.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be taught utilising both face-to-face and online teaching, and simulation work.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Recognise the key definitions, legislation and associated public protection guidance.

MO2 Demonstrate an understanding of the complex nature of vulnerability, risk and public protection and why these are important issues for policing

MO3 Explain the relevance of the THRIVE model to operational policing

MO4 Explain the importance of valuing difference and inclusion and the various considerations that are important when supporting a vulnerable person

MO5 Demonstrate key skills essential for the understanding, analysis and review of scholarly research and data.

MO6 Demonstrate insight about a contemporary policing issue which Evidence Based Policing research has examined.

Hours to be allocated: 400

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 250 hours

Face-to-face learning = 150 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Summative Assessment Task: A 3,000 word (maximum) written assignment relating to a safeguarding case study on a vulnerability issue.

Learners should draw on the key definitions of vulnerability, the legal issues, what investigative research they will need to engage with, what investigative actions they should complete to protect and reduce harm, and what agencies to engage and refer to. They will demonstrate their understanding of underpinning theory and how it can be applied to policing practices within the case study.

Rationale:

This will enable learners to develop their professional persona and reflect on knowledge acquired on the module, directly relating to vulnerability issues. It will help apply theory to practice and establish the academic writing skills necessary for success on the degree programme.

Formative Assessment:

A selection of video quizzes and knowledge checks will be conducted in seminar sessions.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Up to 3000 word written assignment

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Up to 3000 word written assignment

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Professional Policing Practice {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Professional Policing Practice [Frenchay] DPS 2024-25

Professional Policing Practice {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Professional Policing Practice {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25