

Melanie Clayton
Qualifications Developer
NCFE
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Dear Melanie

RE: Level 2 Award in Suicide Awareness

I write with reference to the above proposed qualification, and its potential use within the field of learning and development. Since our inception in 2017, we have delivered training to a wide range of organisations, from central and local government, private and voluntary sector – operating across many industries such as learning, welfare to work, social care, and construction.

Through the provision of mental health training we have found that the issue of suicide is a real concern in many settings, whilst also being a taboo subject. Particularly so in occupations with higher than average rates of suicide e.g. construction and veterinary practice; also, in industries supporting people at elevated risk of suicide such as welfare to work, prisons, care.

Nationally, about 1 in 4 people have had their lives impacted, either through their own attempts or the loss of a friend/loved one. Sadly, with the impact of COVID and its fallout there is (and anticipated) growth in the factors that increase risk of suicide – unemployment, financial instability, deterioration in mental health etc.

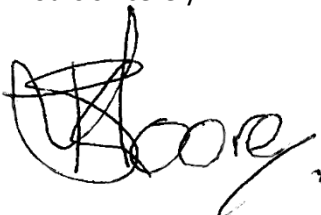
Several training courses in suicide do exist – but very little in terms of qualifications. We see a need for a recognised qualification in this area to support engagement and commitment within a wide range of learning, service, and employment settings. A qualification would support:

- Development of an evidence base for learning
- Ability for employees to generate recognition and CPD points
- Formal leadership within industries
- A raised awareness within the general public

The feedback that we consistently receive is that formal recognised learning about the circumstances that might lead to suicide, the risk factors and the thought processes that lead to suicidal ideation would be very much welcomed and engaged with. Perhaps even more importantly, employers are keen for their staff to understand what works in supporting someone away from “the precipice”.

We therefore very much see a need for this subject to be covered in a formal learning environment.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Moore FRSA FIEP
Director