

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION



**FAA LEVEL 3 AWARD IN SUPERVISING
FIRST AID FOR MENTAL HEALTH (RQF)**

**AWARD IN LEADING FIRST AID FOR
MENTAL HEALTH AT SCQF LEVEL 6**



Each year approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health condition and at least 1 in 6 employees experience common mental health problems in the workplace such as anxiety and depression. Research has shown that work is the biggest cause of stress which can stop people performing at their best.

Mental health conditions are often hidden due to stigma and fear of discrimination and research found that a culture of fear and silence around mental health is costly to employers. The HSE guidance '[First aid needs assessment](#)' refers to mental health in the workplace.

This qualification provides learners with the knowledge to recognise a wide range of mental health conditions and learn about the support/therapy provided by professional healthcare providers. They will know how to start a supportive conversation and when and how to signpost a person to seek appropriate professional help. Learners will recognise and manage stress and understand the impact of substance abuse.

Learners will learn about the first aid action plan for mental health, be able to put the plan in place, and understand how to implement a positive mental health culture in the workplace.

Learners will not diagnose or treat mental health conditions as this can only be carried out by healthcare professionals, but will be able to identify when a person may have a suspected mental health condition, offer reassurance and support, and know where they can go to get help.

This qualification is regulated in the UK and awarded by First Aid Awards (FAA).

FAA are an awarding organisation regulated by Ofqual and SQA Accreditation and the qualification sits on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

Qualification delivery can be classroom-based or distance learning through video conferencing software.



QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

The qualification consists of one unit which learners must successfully complete to achieve the qualification.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

FAA qualifications have set learning outcomes and assessment criteria. The learning outcomes describe the skills and knowledge a learner will gain by successfully completing the qualification. The assessment criteria state the skills, knowledge, and competence a learner will be required to demonstrate during assessment.

Qualification number	RQF 603/3770/9	SCQF R601 04
The qualification consists of one unit		

Unit title	Supervising First Aid for Mental Health (RQF)/Leading First Aid for Mental Health (SCQF)	
RQF unit code	L/617/2920	
SCQF unit code	UM88 04	
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	Classroom-based - 12 hours	Distance learning - 6 hours
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	14 hours	

LEARNING OUTCOMES The learner will:	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA The learner can:
1. Know what mental health is, why people develop mental health conditions and the role of a first aider for mental health	1.1 Define mental health 1.2 Indicate understanding of the stigma surrounding mental health 1.3 Identify factors that can affect a person's mental health 1.4 Understand the role of a first aider for mental health
2. Know how to provide advice and practical support for a person presenting a suspected mental health condition	2.1 Outline the advice that should be provided to a person suffering from a suspected mental health condition 2.2 Know when to contact the emergency services in respect of first aid for mental health
3. Know how to recognise and manage stress	3.1 Identify signs of stress 3.2 State how stress can be managed
4. Understand the impact of substance abuse on mental health	4.1 State potential effects of alcohol and drug abuse on a person's mental health 4.2 Outline potential negative consequences of substance abuse on a person's employment and lifestyle
5. Understand the first aid action plan for mental health and be able to put it in place	5.1 Demonstrate the application of the first aid action plan for mental health
6. Know how to implement a positive mental health culture in the workplace	6.1 State key factors in providing a positive mental health culture in the workplace 6.2 Know how to implement a positive mental health culture in the workplace
7. Understand a range of mental health disorders and the support/therapy provided by professional healthcare providers	7.1 Describe the characteristics, including signs and/or symptoms, of each of the following mental health conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depression• PTSD• Suicide• Personality disorders• Psychosis• Anxiety• Self-harm• Eating disorders• Bipolar• Schizophrenia 7.2 Describe the support & therapy provided by professional healthcare providers for the following mental health conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depression• PTSD• Suicide• Personality disorders• Psychosis• Anxiety• Self-harm• Eating disorders• Bipolar• Schizophrenia

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The qualification is available to learners aged 16 or over.

It is recommended that learners hold a minimum of level 1 in literacy or equivalent to undertake this qualification.

It may be possible to grant a reasonable adjustment for a learner who has a disability, medical condition or learning need following the [FAA Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration Policy](#). For example, assistance could be given with reading or writing during a classroom-based assessment.

Due to the level of unsupervised learning, a learner undertaking a distance learning course must have the literacy skills to complete the required self-study.

If a learner has any concerns they should contact their training provider to discuss before attending the course.



QUALIFICATION DELIVERY

Guided Learning Hours (GLH) indicates the number of contact hours that the learner will undertake being taught or assessed under the immediate guidance or supervision of the trainer/assessor in the classroom, or for distance learning qualifications remotely by video conferencing software.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) includes GLH but also considers unsupervised learning or preparation undertaken by a learner such as self-study or the completion of set tasks and is an estimate of how long an average learner may take to achieve the qualification.

TQT remains the same for a qualification regardless of the method of delivery but the guided learning hours (GLH) will be different due to distance learning self-study.

Classroom-based delivery

12 guided learning hours and 14 hours total qualification time.

The minimum classroom contact time of 12 hours, which includes assessment, can be delivered in 2 days or completed over a maximum of 6 weeks ensuring each session is a minimum of two hours.

The learner ratio for classroom delivery is a maximum of 16 learners to 1 trainer/assessor.

Distance learning delivery

Distance learning delivery can be by either self-study and webinars or continuous contact between the learner and trainer/assessor.

It is beneficial for a learner to undertake independent learning, for example by doing research on the internet.

The learner ratio for distance learning delivery is a maximum of 20 learners to 1 trainer/assessor.

- **Self-study and webinars**

6 guided learning hours and 14 hours total qualification time.

The minimum contact time between the learner and trainer/assessor by video conferencing software of 6 hours, which includes assessment, must be completed over a maximum of 6 weeks.

This method of delivery involves a combination of self-study by the learner using FAA resources and trainer/assessor webinars.

- **Continuous contact by video conferencing software**

12 guided learning hours and 14 hours total qualification time.

The qualification can be delivered by video conferencing software in the format of classroom delivery with the learners and the trainer/assessor in continuous contact.

The minimum contact time of 12 hours, which includes assessment, can be delivered in 2 days or completed over a maximum of 6 weeks ensuring each session is a minimum of two hours.

QUALIFICATION ASSESSMENT

There is no grading of the assessment, learners pass or are referred.

Classroom-based assessment

The qualification is assessed by two written assessments and practical demonstration of the first aid action plan for mental health. A learner must pass all assessments to be awarded the qualification.

Distance learning assessment

The qualification is assessed by professional discussion with the trainer/assessor through video conferencing software and practical demonstration of the first aid action plan for mental health. A learner must pass both assessments to be awarded the qualification.



QUALIFICATION VALIDITY

The qualification is valid for three years from the date of achievement.

It is strongly recommended that the learner attends annual refresher training.

Requalification

To requalify learners can complete the full two-day course again or attend a shortened one-day (6 hour) requalification course. Requalification can also be completed by distance learning. Please note that the dedicated First Aid for Mental Health requalification course must be used and learners are not eligible to simply attend one day of the full course. In this circumstance requalification will be refused.

The requalification course must be completed within three months of expiry of a learner's previous qualification but FAA strongly recommends that it is completed prior to the current expiry date.

If a learner does not complete the requalification course within 3 months of their current expiry date they will need to attend the full 2-day course again.

Where a shortened requalification course is undertaken a learner must provide evidence of their current or previous FAA Award in Supervising/Leading First Aid for Mental Health qualification to the training provider before starting the course.

The one-day requalification course covers all learning outcomes and assessment criteria of the two-day course but in a shortened length of time and learners must complete all assessments to be awarded the qualification again.

PROGRESSION

FAA offer qualifications in first aid and related subjects, health and safety including fire safety and manual handling, food safety and safeguarding if a learner wanted to diversify.

Qualification specifications for all FAA qualifications can be found on the [FAA website](#).

