

Youth justice competencies

Review of National Occupational Standards

What are National Occupational Standards?

A National Occupational Standard (NOS) is a document that describes the knowledge, skills and understanding an individual needs to be competent at a job. They are statements of the standards of performance which individuals must achieve for effective performance in the workplace.

A set of NOS is presented as a 'suite' – relating to a particular business area or occupation. Very few people will carry out all the functions described in any full suite of NOS. In addition, many of the functions / those carrying them out will vary dependent on the size of the organisation.

“National Occupational Standards provide an employer-led, multi-sector definition of competence, setting the standards which govern and quality assure skills and skills development across the UK.”

Sharon Wilton, Technical Consultant, Skills for Justice

What does the youth justice suite of National Occupational Standards cover?

The youth justice suite contains standards which sit across business sectors, much as the multi-agency youth justice system itself does. The main groupings are:

- **Community justice**
- **Public protection**
- **Drugs and alcohol**
- **Addressing and preventing problematic behaviour**
- **Education welfare services.**

Drug and alcohol standards relate to both youth justice and healthcare settings, including: carrying out assessment to identify and prioritise needs in a substance misuse settings; helping individuals address their substance misuse through an action plan; carrying out screening and referral assessments in a substance misuse setting; and assisting in the transfer of individuals between agencies and services.



Education welfare services standards relate to promoting multi-agency working at agencies meetings, and communicating and engaging with children, young people, and their families and carers.

Community justice standards and public protection standards relate to: the development of services which address crime and problematic behaviour, and which reduce offending or reoffending; modelling of pro-social behaviour when working with individuals; supervising and enforcing interventions in the community; using statutory powers to enforce interventions; addressing the challenging behaviour of individuals; and contributing to the development of services which address problematic behaviour, and which reduce offending or reoffending.



The majority of standards relate to addressing and preventing problematic behaviour. These include:

- Maintaining personal security and safety, and be alert to the security of others
- Identifying individuals, and engaging with other agencies and networks to identify those at risk of committing anti-social behaviour or offending
- Preparing and presenting information, exchanging information, and representing the agency viewpoint at courts and meetings
- Obtaining and verifying information from third parties or the individual to assess an individual's problematic behaviour
- Assessing individuals for the principal types and levels of risk associated with their problematic behaviour
- Supporting and encouraging individuals in addressing their problematic behaviour
- Developing, delivering, monitoring and evaluating tailored interventions and their impacts
- Supporting individuals involvement in development activities and helping them develop relationships and to live with others
- Coordinating programmes involving multiple agencies, commissioning programmes from providers, and assessing and agreeing priorities for services and resources
- Managing the transition of young offenders from the youth justice system.

How many youth justice National Occupational Standards are there?

The youth justice suite currently contains 55 National Occupational Standards. During the review, the number of standards may reduce.

How are they used?

Employers use National Occupational Standards as a common language to support and facilitate consistency, standardisation, transferability and interoperability. They have a variety of important uses for both individuals and organisations, including being used in the development of job roles or service design, training and qualifications, or as a measure of workplace competence.

Where can I see them?

Approved National Occupational Standards sit on a national database that is easily accessible and available to everyone. You can view and search the database at ukstandards.org.uk.



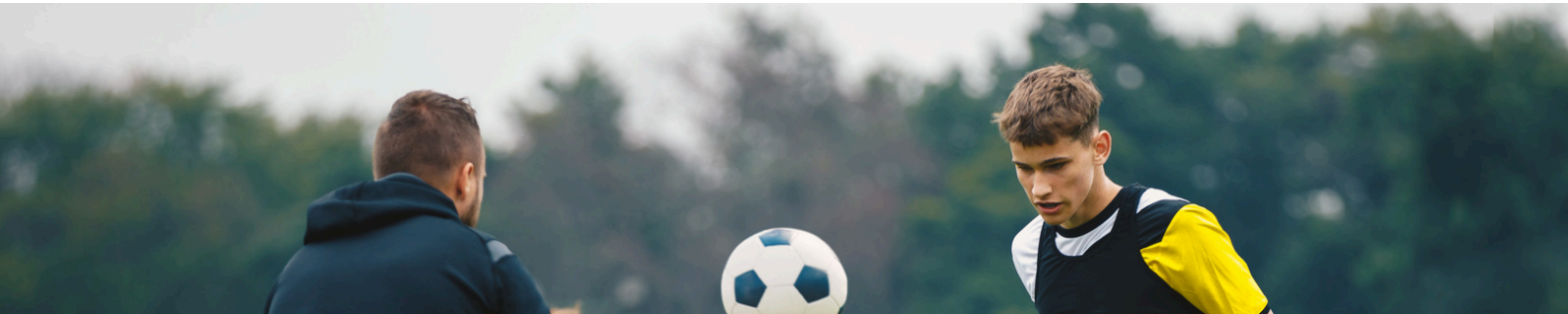
About the review of youth justice National Occupational Standards

Skills for Justice (part of the Workforce Development Trust) are leading a review of National Occupational Standards related to youth justice.

A public consultation is open until midday 17 December 2024.

The results and feedback will be analysed and implemented ahead of submitting the updated standards for approval. It is expected the new standards will be available for use in summer 2025.

The consultation aims to assess whether 22 of the National Occupational Standards are fit for purpose or require updating. We are asking for a wide range of individuals and organisations to give us their feedback.



Help develop youth justice skills

Take part in the consultation
skillsforjustice.org.uk/YJS

