

We know Getting Connected is successful:

The University of Warwick recently carried out a major evaluation of Getting Connected.

Here are some of the comments made by young people and by staff:

// It has been useful because it has made me think about how to deal with difficult situations a lot better than before. I used to deal with things in a negative way. I'm more positive in how I think now and this has helped me to get on with my life. (Young adult)

Getting Connected is valuable for all young people – if you've got a young person working at pre-Entry Level and another working at Level 2, they can both do a unit because they can work at their own pace ... it gives them an equal chance to progress and to achieve something in life. (Mentor)

Getting the certificates will show I can do things. I want to go to college to do beauty therapy. I wouldn't have been able to do that before. (Young adult)

Getting Connected offers youth work a curriculum – a tool for helping us to enable young people to get back into learning. (Mentor)

I've got my certificate for 'Knowing myself' and I'm completing the 'Risk' unit ... It has given me more confidence. (Young adult)

'Getting Connected is very useful and well produced. It has enabled us to discuss issues that would otherwise be difficult to broach.' (Mentor)



What support is there for staff using Getting Connected?

Training: practitioners wishing to use the framework for working with young people usually start by attending an initial two-day training course. This training provides an opportunity to explore:

- **Mentoring:** building that crucial relationship between you and your learners; we provide you with the skills; insights; tools necessary.
- **Learning:** practical strategies and approaches and underpinning theories to help you engage and motivate learners as well as provide them with a clearer understanding of the 'self' as a learner.
- **Emotional intelligence:** building young peoples' understanding of emotional literacy and emotional awareness.
- **The Getting Connected units and how to gain accreditation** for your learners and GCSE school points.

Resources: to support you to deliver Getting Connected:

- **Accreditation manual:** the nuts and bolts of how young adults can gain credit for their learning and how learning experiences can be easily evidenced.
- **Resource books:** includes creative and interesting ways in which learning can be easily evidenced.
- **Getting Connected Guide:** a ring binder containing all the information you will need to run your Getting Connected training course and to develop your programme.
- Support from the UFA Getting Connected National Manager, Liz Lowenstein and Administrative Assistant, Marilyn Stanley based at the UFA, who co-ordinate the programme across Wales, England and Scotland.
- **Getting Connected coordinators/trainers:** consultants based throughout the country who support practitioners and projects.

Website:

- www.gettingconnected.org.uk: a website with regularly updated information and resources.

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(Young adult)



F.A.Qs (Frequently asked questions)

Is there a time limit to completing the registration? No, you and your learners work at the pace that works for you. Details of courses are available on the 'Training' section of our website. www.gettingconnected.org.uk. Evidence is considered current for three years. Learner registration and the certificates last a life-time; therefore new units can be submitted at any time, accruing more points over time.

Can I use Getting Connected without going for accreditation? Yes, the accreditation for young people is optional. Although we would always encourage accreditation as it provides formal recognition of learning, celebrates success, maximises long term impact and support for young people after the programme.

What age group is Getting Connected for? Getting Connected is mainly targeted at 14-19. Success lies in the way in which the content is delivered, ensuring that effective age appropriate processes are applied. OCN accreditation can be arranged for all ages; however we would like to have a conversation with you if you are planning to use the units with anyone under the age of 14, to ensure success.

Can learners submit individual units for accreditation? Yes, Getting Connected was designed so that learners can achieve in 'bite-sized' chunks. Each of the nine units can be individually accredited. You can go for just one unit or a combination.

What sort of evidence do learners need to produce? It doesn't have to be written – photos, tapes, drawings, collages, models ... there are many ways learners can 'show what they know'.

Do we have to follow the units in a certain order? No, you and your learners can choose those units that are most appropriate/useful/attractive to them. You decide on activities that are the most appropriate and effective in your setting.

Can I use Getting Connected with groups? Yes, Getting Connected is being used successfully with groups and in one-to-one work.

What is the UFA? UFA stands for University of the First Age, an educational charity. The UFA is now managing the training, co-ordination and accreditation of Getting Connected nationally. Please see www.ufa.org.uk for more details.

What is YALP? The Young Adults Learning Partnership is a joint initiative of The NYA (The National Youth Agency) and NIACE (the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education).

How is it funded? Getting Connected used to be funded by the National Lottery, however now the University of the First Age are self-financing the management, support, resources and delivery of Getting Connected mentor training.

What do I do next? Get in touch with us!

- **Website:** Complete a registration form to register your interest. Go to: www.gettingconnected.org.uk to download a copy.
- **Phone:** Marilyn Stanley on: 0121 212 9838.
- **Email:** mstanley@ufa.org.uk



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Details of courses are available on the 'Training' section of our website:

www.gettingconnected.org.uk



You work with young people or young adults. **You're** interested in:

Learning

Unleashing creativity and belief in the potential for all to achieve success.

Mentoring

The all-important relationship between learner and facilitator.

Emotional intelligence

Understanding feelings and emotions of self and others.

Accredited awards

Recognition of learning, progress and achievement through a nationally recognised qualification



You need:



What is Getting Connected?

Being a teenager is a difficult period for any young person, with different pulls on time and the stress of emotional and social development.

Getting Connected is a fantastic programme designed to help young people through the complexities of growing up, supporting them in the development of the skills they need to become responsible and successful adults. A central feature therefore of Getting Connected, is our commitment to helping young people develop higher levels of emotional intelligence and self-belief.

With the support of trained adult mentors, the young participants in a Getting Connected programme are encouraged to explore their lives and plan for their futures. They look at their attitudes, feelings and behaviour as well as thinking about their relationships with others.

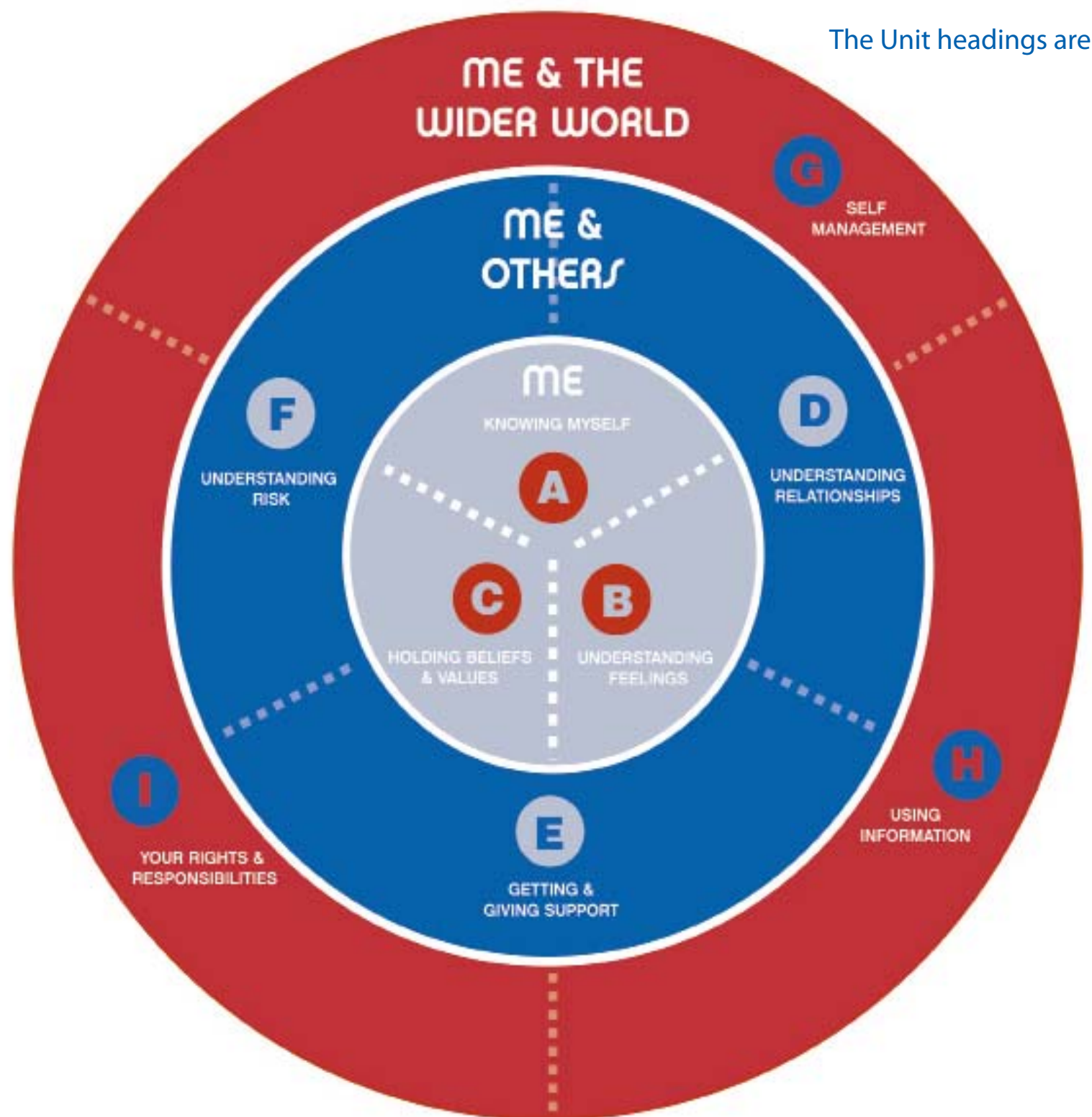
The programme is divided into nine units that can be addressed in any order and in a way that best suits the needs of individuals. Accreditation of learning is provided through NOCN. Each unit can be accredited individually.

Who is Getting Connected for?

Getting Connected is for young people; mainly those aged between 14 -19. The programme is available to schools and youth organisations. It can be used to enrich GCSE choices to ensure that the vital understanding of self and others is developed and given due recognition in the school system and beyond. Getting Connected has been especially helpful for young people who may have become disengaged with school or found the academic world a challenge, and it provides essential support to all to engage and be motivated to learn. Some of the many organisations who have successfully worked with Getting Connected over the last 8 years include: Youth Services; Schools; Connexions; Homeless and Housing Organisations; YMCA, Training Providers; School Inclusion Projects; Social Services; FE Colleges; E2E providers; Youth Access; Sexual Health Projects.

The programme offers a lot of flexibility, you and

The Unit headings are:



your learners choose the unit(s) and decide on the most appropriate activities: discussions; projects; trips; residential; worksheets; diaries; drama; quizzes; board games; craftwork . . . it's up to you!

Accreditation opportunities

There are 2 accreditation routes: Learners can gain individual unit certification OR accreditation through a nationally recognised qualification which carries school points. Getting Connected is accredited by the National Open College Network (NOCN), one of the leading national awarding bodies, which is overseen by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).

Individual unit certification: Learners can submit a portfolio of evidence to gain accreditation for individual units and will receive a certificate for each unit achieved.

Step up progression qualification: Getting Connected is accredited through the nationally recognised NOCN qualification Step Up. This carries school performance points and can therefore be integrated into an existing school GCSE curriculum, or be delivered in non school organisations to complement existing programmes fulfilling core Personal and Social development content. This is available at Award, Certificate or Diploma level– a great way for young people to celebrate success and demonstrate achievement. Registration of learners lasts a lifetime so more units can be added at any point.