

Does it help?

Quality criteria for career
guidance in group settings

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Guidance in groups takes place:

- In schools
- In vocational education colleges
- In universities
- For unemployed adults
- For adults in employment
- For adults facing redundancy

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Some common issues:

- Standards often 'nested' within other standards
- Many funding bodies, using different criteria
- Professional associations can play an important part

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Nesting



first example from schools

Different funders have different standards



second example: unemployed adults

Professional associations
are important



third example from universities

AGCAS Qualification: Groupwork

Adapted from <http://www.agcas.org.uk/events/467-Group-Work-Warwick>, downloaded 27.5.10

- theories underpinning group work
- planning, delivery and evaluation
- management, facilitation and communication skills
- the place of group work in the guidance process
- select, adapt, design and use appropriate materials
- respond to the needs of different client groups

Summary 1: Kinds of group work

- Career education/career management
- Career guidance, about immediate choices
- ‘Getting-a-job skill’ workshops (no wider education or guidance content)

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Summary 2: Stakeholders

WHO

Government

Providing
organisations

Staff

Clients (and their
families)

THINKING ABOUT

value for public money

to win future
contracts

own career futures

good help!

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Summary 3: Quality criteria in groupwork

- quality assurance standards (whole service)
- professional qualifications
- 'precepts' or meta-criteria
- specified curriculum
- professional codes of practice
- legal obligations (e.g. health and safety)
- 'hard' outcome measures
- 'soft' outcome measures
- client satisfaction feedback

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Quality criteria for groupwork

Needs a national framework of meta-criteria.

This should cover:

- Funding
- Premises
- Resources
- Staffing

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Staff should have:

- commitment to the value of groupwork
- skills/understanding that includes:
 - one-to-one guidance as well as groupwork
 - theories underpinning group work
 - planning, delivery and evaluation
 - management, facilitation and communication skills
 - the place of group work within the guidance process
 - select, adapt, design and use appropriate materials
 - respond to the needs of different client groups

Thank you
Vielen dank!

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