

## **Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification frequently asked questions – January 2024 (v1)**

### **Why is the government introducing this when the sector already accesses learning, training and assessment based on the Care Certificate standards?**

Currently delivery of the Care Certificate standards is not uniform, and organisations often require new staff to repeat learning, training and assessment from scratch, even if staff have already completed the Care Certificate in a different organisation. Many providers will deliver the Care Certificate themselves in-house which leads to different ways of delivering and assessing the content, despite the foundational standards being the same.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has developed a new Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification based on the existing Care Certificate standards. The aim is to address these issues of lack of portability and lack of standardisation in how the Care Certificate standards are delivered. The new qualification will provide a baseline standard and help recognise our care workforce and the professional career that it is.

The qualification will not be mandatory at the moment. From June 2024 funding towards the cost of the new Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate will be made available.

Under the DHSC's current plans, staff who already have a relevant qualification will be able to do the new Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification if they want to, but we will encourage care providers to prioritise staff without a relevant qualification to enable them to benefit from gaining one.

### **Who will be eligible for funding?**

Adult social care employers in both Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulated and non-regulated care settings can apply for funding towards the cost for the new Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate for members of their workforce in direct adult social care roles (non-regulated professionals).

Eligible direct care roles include care workers, senior care workers and community support and outreach roles.

Employers must be registered on the Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (AS-WDS) to be eligible for reimbursement.

The funding will be applicable to England only and is for new and existing staff.

Eligibility for undertaking the qualification is restricted to individuals aged 19+ due to Government policy on the study of English and Mathematics.

### **How will the qualification align to other mandatory training requirements, competency sign-off, recommendations and developments in the sector?**

Every care worker's journey will be different, and the introduction of the Care Certificate as a qualification does not replace the employer's responsibility to provide appropriate support, training, professional development, supervision and appraisal as necessary to enable the worker to carry out the duties they are employed to perform. Employers are expected to provide a robust induction as part of this process.

It's the employer's responsibility to ensure staff undergo any mandatory training as part of an induction, and relevant mandatory training cycles, including the legal requirement for staff in CQC-regulated settings to receive learning disability and autism training appropriate for their role.

Learning outcomes in the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification have been updated for an awareness of learning disability and autism. These have been updated to be consistent with learning outcomes from the Core Capabilities Frameworks for supporting people with a learning disability and autistic people.

The final Oliver McGowan code of practice will provide guidance for CQC-regulated employers on how to meet the statutory requirement for learning disability and autism training in the Health and Care Act 2022. It is expected that all learners undertaking the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification who work for regulated service providers will have attended training that meets the standards in the code of practice prior to or alongside completing the new qualification.

### **Will the new Care Certificate qualification be available to healthcare staff as well as social care staff?**

The new level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification has been developed for staff working in adult social care. Government funding towards Care Certificate qualifications will only be available to staff working in an adult social care setting.

Healthcare staff can choose to access the qualification if they want to, but this will need to be funded by their employer.

DHSC previously convened a Care Certificate Governance Group to discuss the interactions between the two. It is reviewing future governance arrangements with external stakeholders and will continue to engage with health colleagues on this point.