

Principles of Commissioning for Wellbeing Level 5 Qualification - Frequently Asked Questions

Does the qualification make a difference?

Our [independent impact evaluation](#) demonstrates the value of this qualification; both the generic qualification and the learning disability & autism qualification. The evaluation shows the positive impact on a number of factors including:

- improved confidence
- increased knowledge about commissioning
- greater commitment to coproduction and commissioning in innovative ways.

Is the qualification for new or for experienced commissioners?

The qualification has been designed for both new and experienced commissioners. A significant amount of the learning comes from sharing practice and experience with peers, enabling everyone to add value and to benefit from the diverse experiences within each cohort. This is reinforced by feedback from a range of people accessing the qualification. Please see our [independent impact evaluation](#) which demonstrates the value of this qualification.

Do I need to be working as a commissioner to do the qualification?

The qualification is designed for both new and existing commissioners looking to refresh knowledge and understand more about commissioning for wellbeing, as well as providers of health and social care services wanting to learn more about commissioning. Providers are given valuable insight into commissioning practices and their experience adds value within the cohort.

If you are not currently working in a commissioning role, you will find it helpful to have local commissioning contacts that you can link with for help with practical examples explored within the qualification.

What is the difference between the generic qualification and the learning disability & autism version of the qualification?

Both versions result in exactly the same level 5 certificate and they cover the same content. However, the learning disability and autism cohorts contextualise this content specifically to learning disability and autism in terms of legislation, policy and guidance. The cohorts are also made up of people working in a learning disability and autism setting and so peer discussion is focused on this more specifically.

Who delivers the commissioning qualification?

The qualification is delivered by two different training providers, [Hasca](#) and [BCE](#). Skills for Care work in partnership with both training providers to develop the specification for the qualification, which is reviewed regularly with [Highfield Qualifications](#), the awarding body.

Both BCE and Hasca organise training cohorts. Please contact either directly to register for the qualification:

- Hasca - contact lynda@hascald.co.uk
- BCE - email info@bcelearn.co.uk

What is the time commitment for the qualification?

The duration is 9-12 months from start to finish, in the region of 235 hours of learning time, which includes 65 hours of guided learning sessions. Everyone undertaking the qualification must evidence their learning through a series of short tasks and longer assignments, some completed in sessions.

Is the qualification delivered face to face or virtually?

Both training providers, [BCE](#) and [Hasca](#), who each deliver the qualification, offer different delivery model options, taking into account your own requirements or the requirements of an organisation. The programme can be delivered virtually and/or classroom-based, with mixed cohorts from around the UK likely to be delivered virtually. Please contact either directly to find out delivery model options for forthcoming cohorts:

- Hasca - contact lynda@hascald.co.uk
- BCE - email info@bcelearn.co.uk

Are there set dates for when cohorts start each year?

There are no set start dates. Both training providers, [Hasca](#) and [BCE](#), who each deliver the qualification, are able to respond to need and can organise a cohort as soon as there is enough demand. Please contact either directly to find out about start dates for forthcoming cohorts:

- BCE - email info@bcelearn.co.uk
- Hasca - contact lynda@hascald.co.uk

Is there any funding to support learners with the cost of the qualification?

There is support for learners accessing the qualification which is dependent on:

- a) the version of the qualification being undertaken. i.e. generic or learning disability and autism,
- b) the sector you work in (i.e. health or social care).

[This helpful diagram has full details of current funding options](#). If you work in an integrated commissioning team, please contact Hasca or BCE, who may be able to advise on further funding support available:

- Hasca - contact lynda@hascald.co.uk
- BCE - email info@bcelearn.co.uk

Do I need my line manager's permission to access the qualification?

If you access the qualification as an employee, either funded by your employer or where funding support is available through Skills for Care, your employer must sign your application to confirm their support. They also need to agree that, should you fail to complete the qualification, they will reimburse any funding paid by Skills for Care.

As a level 5 qualification is quite a commitment, in terms of taught hours, self-directed learning and production of a portfolio of assignments, we strongly recommend that you seek your line managers support to enable you to have flexibility and support to complete the qualification.

Please see our [independent impact evaluation](#) which can be shared with your employer to demonstrate the value of this qualification.

Can I apply for a place as an individual (as opposed to an employee where my employer pays)?

Yes, you can access a place on the qualification without the support of an employer. However, it is not possible to access any funding support that might be available towards the cost. Individuals should also consider how relevant the focus of the qualification will be without suitable links to commissioners and resources to help with practical examples required for portfolio assignments. Please contact BCE or Hasca, who each deliver the qualification, to discuss this further:

- BCE - email info@bcelearn.co.uk
- Hasca - contact lynda@hascald.co.uk

Do I need to have any existing qualifications to do the commissioning qualification?

It is not essential for people to have existing qualifications to access this course. However, this is a level 5 qualification, which is equivalent in terms of level of learning to the second year of a bachelor's degree, or an HND diploma. Therefore you would either need to hold an existing level 3 qualification, or be able to demonstrate that you are able to work at this higher level of independent study. If you have more questions about what this means in practice, please contact [Hasca](#) and [BCE](#), who each deliver the qualification, to discuss this further:

- Hasca - contact lynda@hascald.co.uk
- BCE - email info@bcelearn.co.uk

Are the training providers able to make reasonable adjustments (for example for learners with a learning difficulty like dyslexia)?

Both [Hasca](#) and [BCE](#), who each deliver the qualification, welcome and value diversity within the training cohorts. As such they are both happy to make reasonable adjustments in order to enable people to access the qualification. For a more specific discussion about reasonable adjustments, please contact BCE or Hasca to discuss this further:

- BCE - email info@bcelearn.co.uk
- Hasca - contact lynda@hascald.co.uk

Are there any exams?

The qualification is assessed through a portfolio of assignments produced by the learner and there are no exams. For more information, contact [BCE](#) and [Hasca](#), who each deliver the qualification:

- Hasca - contact lynda@hascald.co.uk
- BCE - email info@bcelearn.co.uk

Why should I pick this course over other ones?

Choosing the right course for you is an individual decision, one based on lots of different considerations. We have included some information about the qualification which may help you to make your choice:

- Principles of Commissioning for Wellbeing is the only qualification we are aware of focused on commissioners of social care and health provision. As such, it is different to completing a certificated course or training programme. For some learners, who are looking for a more formal recognition of their career skills and knowledge, this can be helpful.
- The qualification has been developed by a range of national partners, as well as commissioners and people with lived experience. This means that the content covers a broad view of commissioning practice, rather than being connected to one particular model or approach.
- A recent [independent impact evaluation](#) showed that the qualification is well regarded by the hundreds of commissioners who have undertaken it. It demonstrated positive impact in terms of confidence levels, knowledge of commissioning theory, and positive changes in commissioning practice. It also highlighted that the qualification has been helpful in terms of career progression.