

Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate: factsheet for care providers and frequently asked questions

September 2024

What is the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate?

- ◁ The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate is a new qualification which has been developed from the Care Certificate standards, it is accredited, portable and requires assessment of skills.
- ◁ The qualification is open to all eligible non-regulated care staff, aged 19+. This will not replace the Care Certificate standards, but knowledge gained from new starter induction may be used towards gaining the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate via recognition of prior learning.

Is funding available?

As an employer, am I eligible?

- ◁ Should you want to claim for Government funding, you must:
 - Provide an adult social care service
 - Directly employ care staff in England
 - Have completed the [Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set \(ASC-WDS\)](#)

Why should I enrol my staff onto the qualification?

- ◁ Developed from the care certificate standards the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification has been designed to ensure people in care roles have the most up to date knowledge and baseline skills required to support people well and succeed in their roles.
- ◁ The qualification provides the key knowledge and skills required for

of these level 2 options and it is up to each employer and learner to decide which option is best for them.

The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate has a total qualification time (TQT) of 369 hours of learning. We expect this to take a new learner around 6 – 8 months to complete but an experienced care worker may complete this in a shorter period of time.

Interaction with other Level 2 Qualifications

The Level 2 Adult Social Care qualification is available to learners who are aged 19+. Individuals can take the qualification at their own pace via an awarding organisation. The qualification does not contain any English and maths content so it may be more suitable for experienced individuals who need less support with these skills.

An apprenticeship is a paid job where individuals learn through a combination of workplace training and off-the-job training. Apprenticeships take at least a year to complete and are available to learners aged 16+.

It is important for younger learners, in line with Department for Education policy, to continue the study of English and maths until aged 19. This can be achieved through the Level 2 Adult Care Worker apprenticeship, and so this is a more suitable learning programme for this group. The apprenticeship can equip learners aged under 19 and above 19 with the skills they need for the future.

The current Care Certificate standards will still be able to be used as part of a robust induction process. The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate has been built from the standards to reflect best practice and with the intention of this becoming the baseline standard of training within the first 6-12 months of joining the ASC workforce. Additionally, the new Level 2 is an accredited qualification and is eligible for government funding.

Awarding Organisations have developed the qualification and received approval from Skills for Care so that the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate is now available for delivery by educational institutions or training providers since 3rd June 2024. A list of Awarding Organisations who have developed the qualification and had their qualification approved by Skills for Care and regulated by Ofqual can be found here [Approved Qualifications \(skillsforcare.org.uk\)](https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Approved-Qualifications)

Funding

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Care staff do not need to have British citizenship to qualify for the Learning and Development Support Scheme as long as they are legally employed in England and have a UK National Insurance Number.

Key features of the qualification

Initial assessment and needs of the learner It is expected that centres delivering the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate will carry out an initial assessment process. This process should ensure the learner can demonstrate the full requirements or if needed, act as an advisory process so the potential learner can reach the required standard to achieve the qualification by being sign posted to the most appropriate route.

Variety of delivery - Delivery and assessment should be appropriately planned to ensure the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate is accessible for all and can be delivered across a range of care settings in the sector, in line with [the assessment principles and additional guidance](#). Employers and centres should adopt a flexible approach to the delivery of the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate based on their current training and induction practices. An employer may decide to complete the qualification alongside employer specific in

Frequently Asked Questions

Level 2 landscape

How does the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate fit in with the existing level 2 options?

The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate sits alongside existing Level 2 options such

A learner will have regular formal assessment interventions. The assessor will plan with the individual the best way to evidence the requirements in the qualification and there are a range of assessment methods which can be used. The assessor can also adapt assessment methods depending on learner need, for example, if an individual does not feel confident expressing themselves in written format. The formal assessment cycle includes planning, review and feedback meetings to discuss the learners needs and what evidence is needed to meet the criteria of the qualification and progress. Once the learner has submitted evidence of knowledge and skills, the assessor will review against the qualification content and provide relevant feedback.

What is the registered managers role in this?

If you have decided that the Level 2 Adult Social Care qualification is the right route for your workforce, you will need to find a learning/training provider to deliver this. Registered managers should liaise with the learning/training provider to understand the needs of the qualification and agree the best method of teaching, learning, assessment and delivery for learners. They should also support the assessor to plan their observation visits to mitigate any negative impact on individuals accessing care and support.

Registered managers and others in the workplace with existing Care Certificate standards delivery experience can also act in a valuable role in the formal qualification assessment process, this might be by sharing relevant evidence from within the workplace which could be used, providing statements and support to the learner. There may also be if appropriate, opportunities for those in the workplace with existing Care Certificate standards delivery experience to become formally qualified assessors.

How is this practically different to the standards?

The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate differs to the current Care Certificate Standards in that it requires formal assessment as it is an accredited qualification.

To qualify for The Learning and Development Support Scheme, individuals must be employed by an employer (including local authorities) which meets all of the following criteria:

- ◁ Provide an adult social care service
- ◁ Directly employ care staff in England (please see the grant determination letter for a definition of 'direct employment')
- ◁ Have completed the Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS)

Is internal training eligible for funding?

Training delivered in-house is not eligible for LDSS funding, even if the employer is an accredited learning centre. ASC employers will only be able to claim reimbursement for eligible courses and qualifications that are delivered by an external training provider. This is due to the evidence required when submitting claims. We will explore expanding this scope in future iterations of the service.

How do I access the funding?

- ◁ The Department of Health and Social Care is providing funding for learning and development for non-regulated care staff in England via the Learning and Development Support Scheme
- ◁ Eligible employers can claim funding for the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate on behalf of eligible care staff for up to £1500 per qualification.
- ◁ Full details of how to access the funding and submitting claims from the Learning and Development Support Scheme can be accessed in the guidance here [Learning and Development Support Scheme for the adult social care](#)

What is the total reimbursement available for the Level 2 Care Certificate Qualification?

- ◁ The reimbursement available per qualification is up to £1500.
- ◁ There is no ringfenced funding specifically for the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate.
- ◁ Full details of how to access the funding and submitting claims from the Learning and Development Support Scheme can be accessed in the guidance: [Learning and Development Support Scheme for the adult social care workforce: a guide for employers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/learning-and-development-support-scheme-for-the-adult-social-care-workforce-a-guide-for-employers)

Induction and Mandatory training

How will the qualification align to other recommendations and developments in the sector?

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.

Under the Health and Care Act 2022, CQC-registered providers are required to ensure their staff receive learning disability and autism training appropriate to their role. A code of practice will be issued in due course to guide providers on meeting this requirement. 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.

The new Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate will provide a baseline standard and help recognise our care workforce and the professional career that it is.

Turnover of staff is 9% lower where there is access to learning opportunities to gain skills and qualifications, and investing and supporting staff to develop their careers will act as an incentive for people to join, develop and stay in the workforce.

The qualification will not be mandatory at the moment.

What is going to happen to the existing Care Certificate Standards?

The Department for Health and Social Care are liaising with sector bodies and the CQC on the future of the Care Certificate Standards and will be sharing more guidance on this in the coming months. The existing Care Certificate standards should continue to be accessed and used by the adult social care sector to support initial induction training while this work is underway.

Qualification delivery – Employers and Training providers

Do providers have to be registered and approved by an Awarding Organisation (AO) to deliver the qualification?

Yes, learning/training providers need to be approved by an AO (who are approved by Ofqual) to deliver the qualification.

How will we source the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification for the adult social care workforce?

You will need to contract a learning/training provider who has been approved by an Awarding Organisation to deliver the qualification. Link to approved Awarding Organisations [here](#).

How will quality be assured of the new qualification?

Quality is the responsibility of all those involved in delivering the qualification and this is formally monitored by the Awarding Organisation (AO) who has approved the centre to deliver the qualification.

Skills for Care will be quality assuring the qualifications submitted by AOs and we require AOs to provide a robust explanation of how they assess and monitor the competency of their approved centres as part of our approval process.

An AO carries out a formal approval process for learning centres looking to deliver all qualifications.

Quality of provision and any potential risks with centre delivery are then continually monitored by the AO through several approaches including regular compliance monitoring and external quality assurance activities.

What happens when there might be considerations or challenges in enabling access to the workplace to external assessors?

There are robust Assessment Principles and guidance which are in place to create a consistent and fair approach to assessment in sector qualifications. Guidance is provided when additional factors need to be considered within the assessment process.