



Department
of Health &
Social Care

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

September 2024

Do you work in an adult social care?

Do you want to be acknowledged for your skills and expertise in a way that all employers will recognise?

The Department of Health and Social Care have launched a new Level 2 qualification for adult social care employees. For those both new to care and those already working in the sector, this qualification is a great opportunity that will open the door to further learning and career progression.

The qualification is based off the Care Certificate Standards which employees should currently be doing during their induction period.

The Level 2 does not require English and Maths functional skills and, as it is a qualification, will be recognised by different employers. This means that you will not need to do large amounts of repeat learning and training when moving between jobs in the adult social care sector.

The qualification will be shaped around your day-to-day work activities and, for those who are relatively new to working in adult social care, will take on average 6-8 months to complete. For those more experienced in adult social care, this qualification will recognise your experience and expertise by providing an opportunity to contribute your prior learning and training to complete the course in a shorter length of time.

The Learning and Development Support Scheme will have a digital online claims service that allows adult social care employers to claim funding for certain training courses and qualifications on behalf of eligible care staff. Funding will be available for eligible courses and qualifications that have been both paid for and started between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 (inclusive).

The Learning and Development Support Scheme approved course list includes the **Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate Qualification**. 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.

For qualifications:

- employers should claim using the combined claims model, wherein employers must claim 60% of the reimbursement value upon their employee starting the qualification, with the remaining 40% reimbursement provided upon proof of course completion
- the initial 60% reimbursement claim must be made by the earliest date of either 21 March 2025 (inclusive) or within 3 months after the qualification start date. Late claims submitted between 22 and 31 March 2025 (inclusive) may be considered on a case-by-case basis
- the remaining 40% reimbursement claim must be made within 3 months of completion. When an eligible qualification has been both paid for and started between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 (inclusive) but completion extends beyond 31 March 2025, completed claims can be submitted up to 31 December 2026

The remaining 40% reimbursement for qualifications will only be provided if the training has been completed.

Where a training course is completed but not passed (for example, failure to pass the final assessment), reimbursement may still be made provided proof of completion is supplied.

This funding is more limited than the previous scheme with no dedicated funding specifically for the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate.

The new guidance document provides details about the funding, including eligibility and how to access it: [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)

Completion of this qualification will open new opportunities for learning and development, including specialist training or going on to complete your Level 3 Adult Care Diploma.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of gaining the qualification?

We want the adult social care workforce to be recognised as the professional workforce that it is. We also want to improve perceptions and experience of a rewarding career in care. This qualification is accredited by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and helps to confirm that you have a certain level of knowledge and skills.

For those new to the sector, we hope this qualification will empower you to deliver high-quality care, and for those experienced in the sector, give you recognition of your

experience, knowledge and skills. Upon completion of the qualification, you will receive an accredited certificate which you can show to all future employers.

The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate provides an opportunity to progress onto other types of learning and qualifications as outlined in the new [Care Workforce Pathway](#). The Pathway will outline the skills, knowledge, values and behaviours needed to work in different roles in adult social care and the different career paths and progression routes you might follow. To find out more about the new Care Workforce Pathway, please visit: [Care workforce pathway for adult social care \(skillsforcare.org.uk\)](https://skillsforcare.org.uk).

Am I eligible?

The qualification is suitable for those working in direct care-providing roles in England.

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.

International recruits may also enrol on the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate. 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.

Is my employer eligible?

Funding is available for non-regulated care staff in England, including deputy and CQC-registered managers and agency staff. There are no restrictions on the number of hours that care staff must be contracted for to be eligible for this support.

To qualify for the LDSS, individuals must be employed by an employer (including local authorities) that meets all of the following criteria. The employer must:

- provide an ASC service
- directly employ care staff in England (see 'Glossary of terms' below and the grant determination letter, which will be published soon)
- complete, or have already completed, the [Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set \(ASC-WDS\)](#)

To find out more about eligibility, speak to your employer. They can refer to the eligibility criteria in the funding guidance found here: [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)

How much time will the qualification take?

The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate is likely to take on average 6-8 months to complete. This will vary but could look something like 4-5 hours of learning a week, some of which could be doing your daily tasks. An individual with experience in the role may complete the qualification in a shorter time as they could demonstrate recognition of prior learning and experience.

The qualification requires assessment of your knowledge and skills whilst you work in your day-to-day role. If you have more experience, it is likely that you will already have achieved many elements of knowledge and skills within the qualification and you may need less time away from your daily tasks.

What is the difference between this qualification and the Care Certificate Standards?

The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate is based on the 15 Care Certificate Standards but is an accredited qualification. This means that it is regulated by Ofqual (the qualifications regulatory body) and is a trusted and universally recognised confirmation of your learning. The Care Certificate standards are often delivered as e-learning, but the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate will involve assessment of your knowledge and skills whilst you work in your day-to-day role.

Q: What is the difference between this qualification, the diploma and apprenticeship?

Both the qualification and the apprenticeship equip individuals with the skills to enter the adult social care workforce, but the pathways are different.

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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.

How can you find more details about the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate?

To find out more, please talk with your employer or visit the information page on Skills for Care website: [Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification \(skillsforcare.org.uk\)](https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Level-2-Adult-Social-Care-Certificate-qualification).