



Department
of Health &
Social Care

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

May 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 are launching 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.

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.

Funding

The pre-election period started at 00:01 on Saturday 25 May, during which time there will be restrictions on the conduct of government business. This arises from the

special character of government business during an election campaign, and from the need to maintain, and be seen to maintain, the impartiality of the Civil Service, and to avoid any criticism of an inappropriate use of official resources.

In this light we have assessed the position with regards to the proposed funding for the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification. Having done so we have concluded that any decisions or wider activity relating to making that funding available should be suspended for the time being, pending fresh consideration by the government that will form following the General Election.

This pause relates to funding decisions and activity by DHSC only.

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://www.skillsforcare.org.uk).

Am I eligible?

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

To do the qualification, you will need to be aged 19+ at enrolment. This is because the qualification does not contain any English and Maths. It is important for younger

learners, and in line with Department for Education policy, to continue the study of English and Maths until age 19.

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

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.

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

The Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate sits alongside existing Level 2 options such as the Level 2 Adult Care Worker Apprenticeship and Diploma in Care. You do not need to complete more than one of these Level 2 options and it is up to you and your employer to decide which option is best.

A learner must be 19+ to enrol on the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate. This is because this qualification does not contain any English and Maths. It is important for younger learners, and in line with Department for Education policy, to continue the study of English and Maths until aged 19. The Level 2 Adult Care Worker Apprenticeship (including the Level 2 Diploma), available to individuals from 16+, is a more suitable learning programme for this group and equips the under 19 workforce with skills they need for the future.

The Level 2 Diploma in Care is a longer qualification of approximately 12 months. We know that this is well recognised in the sector and many of the workforce have already achieved this.

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).