



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate:

Factsheet for care workers and frequently asked questions

Version 2.0

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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 Level 2 adult social care certificate 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.

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.

Eligible adult social care employers can access funding for the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate from the [Learning and Development Support Scheme \(LDSS\)](#). This funding is provided by the Department of Health and Social Care, and more information is available on [GOV.UK](#).

Eligible employers can claim LDSS funding for training courses and qualifications undertaken by eligible care staff. For the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification, employers can claim up to £1540 per learner. To be eligible for

funding, qualifications must be accredited by an eligible awarding organisation – these are specified on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

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.

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)

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 [Care Workforce Pathway](https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/care-workforce-pathway). The Pathway outlines 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 Care Workforce Pathway, please visit: [Care workforce pathway for adult social care \(skillsforcare.org.uk\)](https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/care-workforce-pathway-for-adult-social-care)

Am I eligible?

Yes, If you are employed directly, to provide an adult care service.

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 adult social care service
- Directly employ care staff in England
- Have 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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 16 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 and the apprenticeship?

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

An apprenticeship is a paid job where individuals learn through a combination of workplace training and off-the-job learning (also known as 'new learning'). Apprenticeships now have a minimum duration of 8 months (from August 2025), therefore ensuring they are more flexible, however many do last a lot longer than this.

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 new health and social care foundation apprenticeship is set to begin in August 2025. This is a Level 2 employment-based training programme that offers young people, aged 16 to 21, a paid route into the health and adult social care sectors. This is not a replacement for the existing Level 2 Adult Care Worker apprenticeship and has been designed to provide tailored support for a confident and successful transition from education to the workplace.

Once someone has achieved a foundation apprenticeship, they can progress onto a more specific level 2 qualification or a higher-level apprenticeship. The learning from their foundation apprenticeship will support this transition.

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](https://skillsforcare.org.uk/level-2-adult-social-care-certificate-qualification) (skillsforcare.org.uk).