

# Quality framework for adult social care training provision of The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism ('Oliver's Training')

## Department for Health and Social Care for word

The government is fully committed to a professional, well-supported social care quality, relevant and accessible.

Care providers currently have to replace almost a third of their workers each year due to staff leaving their jobs. High turnover worsens the quality of care. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is therefore investing in retention through better workforce training, recognition, and career progression, and has:

- Published a [new career structure for care and support workers](#) which identifies the values, skills, knowledge, behaviours and recommended learning and development for different roles so that all staff can develop in their careers and can be recognised for their experience and skills.
- Created a new qualification, the [Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate](#). This has been developed from the Care Certificate standards, and is accredited, portable and requires assessment of skills. It has been designed to ensure people in

is of good quality, easily accessible, meets the needs of the workforce and users of care services, and is trusted by the sector.

Therefore, DHSC has contracted Skills for Care to develop and launch the new Quality Assured Care Learning Service. This service will review the quality of individual courses and qualifications delivered by training providers in the sector and quality assure those which meet a high standard and deliver good learning outcomes. The intention of the service is to ensure that the sector can easily identify good quality learning and development and trust that courses and qualifications identified and funded by the government meet their needs.

Additionally, as part of this service, Skills for Care has developed and is launching a quality assurance process for delivery of The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism ('Oliver's Training') within the adult social care sector. From 1 July 2022, the Health and Care Act 2022 introduced a requirement on CQC-registered providers to ensure their staff receive training on learning disability and autism, appropriate to their role. This training is an important way to ensure staff have the right knowledge and skills to provide safe and compassionate care for people with a learning disability and autistic people and to improve outcomes for this population. We want this training to be an essential part of the learning journey for the adult social care workforce which is why the DHSC has embedded it within plans such as the Care Workforce Pathway and the Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate.

The service is funded by DHSC and there is no cost to training providers to apply for quality assurance. Applicants will be provided with both guidance and support from Skills for Care. Quality assurance will result in specific courses and qualifications being:

- Provided with a Quality Assured Care Learning Mark that can be used in promotion materials for the course or qualification.
- Recommended to DHSC for inclusion in the Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme.
- Linked to relevant role categories and learning outcomes in the Care Workforce Pathway as recommended learning.

The service will be open to all training providers who meet the eligibility criteria published prior to set application windows. Initial application windows will be for training providers who deliver courses and qualifications eligible for funding from the Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme.

Over time, it is the government's ambition that all learning and development identified or funded through the Learning and Development Support Scheme will be quality assured through this Quality Assured Care Learning Service. However, we recognise that this represents a significant change for the sector and will take time to achieve, therefore quality assurance of training provider's courses and qualification will occur in phases.

- **Phase one**  
 During the 2024 – 2025 financial year training providers will be able to apply to be quality assured. Employers will be able to claim funding for courses and qualifications eligible for funding from the Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme that have not been quality assured.
- **Phase two**  
 In the 2025 – 2026 financial year courses and qualifications delivered by training providers that have been quality assured will be identified as recommended options within the Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme and Care Workforce Pathway for the sector. Employers will be able to claim funding for courses and qualifications eligible for funding from the Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme that are not quality assured.
- **Phase three**  
 In the 2026 – 2027 financial year only courses and qualifications delivered by training providers that have been quality assured will be eligible for funding. Employers will not be able to claim funding for courses and qualifications identified in the Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme that are not quality assured.

The quality assurance process will remain open to new and returning applicants throughout each phase.

The timings of the phases above are indicative. The timings of phases 2 and 3 are subject to the successful completion of phase 1. For example, the Department of Health and Social Care would need to be assured there was sufficient capacity amongst quality assured training providers to meet the needs of the sector before moving to a

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## Context

This Quality Framework is a bespoke measure of quality delivery of the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism within the adult social care sector. Training providers who can demonstrate that they meet the Quality Framework can apply to become Quality Assured.

The framework includes:

- a commitment to ensuring fair and transparent pricing
- a commitment to ensuring their training offer is in line with the Oliver McGowan draft code of practice on statutory learning disability and autism training, and the final Code of Practice when this is issued.
- being able to meet or exceed the 9 Quality Standards designed for all training providers delivering to the adult social care sector.
- being able to meet or exceed the 3 additional Quality Measures set out below which relate specifically to Oliver's Training.

This framework is designed to set a benchmark for quality training delivery and ensure that training identified and recommended by the government is of good quality and meets the needs of the sector whilst supporting employers to make informed choices.

All training providers applying to have their courses quality assured will be asked to provide evidence to meet the following nine Quality Standards:

1. Organisational values align to the values of the social care sector: Kind, compassionate and empathetic; Honest, trustworthy and reliable; Respect; Courageous and principled; See the whole person; Flexible, open and learning; Proud and positive. They are actively implemented and upheld.

