

# Welcome to your Skills for care update

**Ali Porteous 14.1.26**

# Fair Pay Agreements (FPA) in adult social care (ASC)

## FINAL call for action: Public consultation closing soon on 16 January 2026

- The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is introducing FPAs in ASC – this is the first ever agreement of its kind in the sector.
- The Employment Rights Bills provides the legislative framework for FPAs.
- DHSC is seeking views on the design of the FPA process in England from the ASC sector through a public consultation. Engagement activity with different parts of the sector is planned throughout the consultation period.
- The ASC sector is encouraged to respond to the public consultation.

More information on the [Skills for Care website](#).

# Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme (LDSS)



## CALL FOR ACTION: Claim funding for training for you and your workforce

The LDSS scheme supports adult social care employers to invest in learning and development for their staff, by providing a financial contribution towards the costs of training. Up-to-date information, including guidance for employers and a list of courses and qualifications eligible for funding can be found on the [Government website](#). **(Updated to include Oliver's Training information)**.

- The LDSS is administered by NHSBSA via the [online claims service](#).
- [FAQs available](#).

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## Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS) | Up-to-date account required to claim funding

Did you know that to claim LDSS funding, you need an up-to-date ASC-WDS account?

Find out more about [ASC-WDS](#) |

# Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate (L2ASCC) qualification



An accredited qualification designed to provide a baseline standard to care, reduce the need for repeat training and give recognition to our care workforce. Ofqual-regulated, requiring workplace assessment, completed in 6–8 months (or less), **claim £1,540 LDSS funding**.

**Find out more:** [www.skillsforcare.org.uk/CareCertificateQual](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/CareCertificateQual)

**Updated August 2025:** [Factsheets and FAQs for care providers, care workers and training provides](#)

## Updated Care Certificate Standards

The Care Certificate Standards have been updated to align with sector developments and the introduction of the L2ASCC qualification.

The standards define the knowledge, skills and behaviours expected of specific job roles in health and social care. They can be used to inform what information is covered during induction.

A self-assessment tool and an assessor and employer guide are available to support the standards. There is also a summary of the updates and a set of FAQs.

[See the updated standards](#)

# Digital skills resources



## Digital skills framework: self-assessment tools

- [Digital Skills Self-Assessment Tool](#) (for people working in care)
- [‘What Good Looks Like’ Self-Assessment Tool](#) (for care organisations)

Both tools are available on the [Digitising Social Care Website](#)

## Free to access, bitesize digital eLearning modules

Accessed via Skills for Care’s learning management system and designed to support people working in adult social care to gain knowledge and understanding on how digital, data and technology is used in the sector. [Find out more](#)

## Level 5 Award in Understanding Digital Leadership in Adult Social Care

Aimed at registered managers, team leaders, senior care practitioners, and others in senior roles who are in a position to influence digital decisions and lead cultural change within their services. [Find out more](#)

# Care Workforce Pathway



## Role categories and resources to help you use the pathway

Role categories	They describe	Supporting resources	Role categories in development for 25/26
New to Care Care or Support Worker Enhanced Care Worker Personal Assistant Supervisor or Leader Practice Leader Deputy Manager Registered Manager	Universal values  Behaviours  Knowledge and skills  Learning and development	Guide to adopting the pathway  Templates and checklists for how to approach implementation  Job mapping template  Skills self-assessments  Careers conversations toolkit  Development plan template	Nominated Individual Activities Coordinator Care/Digital Technologist *Corporate middle/senior managers *Quality assurance roles *ASC learning and development roles  * these roles will contain a lower level of detail than the full role categories

# Latest info

Key sector developments and information related to your role



# Launching our brand-new dementia resources



**Designed for anyone supporting people living with dementia including family carers, health and social care professionals and community workers**

**Our aim is to make dementia information more accessible, person-centred and practical.**

We have developed resources to support the following areas:

- Prevention
- Before and after diagnosis
- Support for people providing care and support
- Family Carers
- End of life

[www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Dementia](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Dementia)





# Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training (‘Oliver’s Training’)



## Funding arrangements and reimbursement rates

- Funding to support Oliver’s Training is available to the adult social care sector through the [Learning and Development Support Scheme \(LDSS\)](#), separate to the overall existing LDSS funding already available for other training courses and qualifications. The LDSS is administered by NHSBSA via the [online claims service](#).

Procured training - reimbursement rates	
Tier 1 - £25.00	Tier 2 - £90.00
In-house training - reimbursement rates	
Tier 1 - £12.50	Tier 2 - £50.00

- You will need an up-to-date [ASC-WDS](#) account to claim funding.
- **Updated FAQs available (2 December 2025) [here](#).**
- **[Recording](#) of the ‘Overview on the mandatory training requirement on learning disability and autism: What you need to know about the code of practice’ 13 November webinar**

# Registered manager / Deputy manager / NI and CEO network survey 2025/26

**We are inviting you to take part in a short survey to help us understand more about the benefits of attending our networks.**

We want to understand and gain feedback on many things including:

- why you attend the networks
- what benefits you gain from attending
- what improvements you have made to your service as a result of attending the network.

**Thank you for completing our short survey - [Access the survey](#)**



# Upcoming events, seminars and programmes



# London & South East summits: Making an impact by learning from others



**Wednesday 28th January 2026 - Holiday Inn Gatwick, Crawley**  
**OR**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – International Student House, London**

## **South East 28th Jan Gatwick**



**These London and South East Summits will showcase how partnerships and engagement have shaped service and workforce development to improve service delivery and have positive impact on people drawing on care and support.**

As well as keynote presentations covering good practice examples participants will attend two out of 3 breakout sessions. There will be opportunities for networking, making new contacts and reflecting on examples shared to identify actions to take away.

## **London 4th Feb**



# Supervising and supporting nursing students on placement in social care settings

**Thursday 29 January | 10:00 – 11:00 | Online**

Join our upcoming webinar introducing the NMC Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment for registered manager's resource.

This session will:

- Explain how NMC standards underpin your role as a practice supervisor.
- Showcase real experiences from registered managers who've successfully used the resource.
- Share university perspectives on preparing managers for effective student supervision.

You'll gain practical insights and tools to confidently support nursing students during placements.

**[Find out more and book now](#)**



# RM webinar | Dementia care – Enabling people to live well

**Thursday 5 February | 10:00 – 11:00 | Online**

**This webinar aims to support frontline managers in implementing dementia training to enhance care quality and engagement for people living with dementia**

**Key topics include:**

- Implementing dementia training for staff
- Essential skills and knowledge for high-quality care
- Overview of dementia resources
- How to access funding for dementia qualifications
- Real-world examples from providers who have improved dementia provision

[Register now](#)



# RM webinar | Navigating the CQC regulations: Building confidence in what you will need to evidence

**Wednesday 25 February | 10:00 – 11:00 | Online**

Explore the CQC Fundamental Standards and Regulations and how they apply to everyday care delivery.

This joint webinar with The Outstanding Society provides practical guidance on maintaining compliance and confidence in quality of care, particularly during times of change. Supports those who are new to regulatory compliance as well as those seeking a refresher.

Learn how to link regulations to daily practice, delve deeper into requirements to be assessment-ready, and understand how other providers ensure ongoing compliance.

[Register now](#)



# Being prepared for CQC assessment seminar

## February and March dates available

**This popular one-day interactive seminar is for services that want to understand practical ways to be ready for their CQC assessment.**

- Learn about the CQC Assessment Framework and the latest areas of assessment focus.
- Understand successful approaches to preparing your staff for CQC assessment.
- Discover what you will need to evidence to demonstrate your service meets or exceeds what the CQC expects.
- Cost £250 + VAT

[Book now](#)



**Save 10% when  
you book using  
promo code  
10%OFF**



# The Managers Conference 2026



**Join us at the only conference dedicated to managers in adult social care!**

**Monday 9 – Tuesday 10 March 2026 | Wyboston Lakes Resort, Bedfordshire**

Managers are fundamental to the delivery of outstanding care. That's why Skills for Care and National Care Forum are once again hosting The Managers Conference to champion and support this crucial role.

This networking event with overnight accommodation has a packed programme which includes a mix of conference sessions and practical workshop options, as well as panel discussions.

**[Tickets selling fast – secure yours today](#)**



# Delivering outstanding care seminar



**Wednesday 18 March | 10:00 – 15:30 | Online**

**This popular one-day seminar is for services who want to understand what Outstanding care looks like and how to deliver and evidence this.**

**You'll discover:**

- What Outstanding care truly looks like
- How to evidence excellence under the CQC Assessment Framework
- The key differences between Good and Outstanding and how to bridge the gap
- Practical strategies to exceed CQC expectations
- Cost £250 + VAT



**Save 10% when  
you book using  
promo code  
10%OFF**

[Book now](#)