



11 January 2017

Dear colleague,

## Health & Social Care and Childcare Qualifications

In November 2016, Qualifications Wales published a proposal to develop new Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications.

Over the next three years, we will be working with awarding bodies, employers/employer bodies and other stakeholders (including teachers, lecturers and work-based trainers who currently deliver the qualifications) to develop a new suite of Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications, to be taught to learners aged 14 and upwards across Wales from 1 September 2019. In line with the recommendations of our Review in the Health and Social Care and Childcare sector, the new suite of qualifications will reduce complexity, raise quality and increase coherence for the sector. You can find links to documents relating to the various stages of the Review on the [Health and Social Care and Childcare pages](#) on our website.

The new qualifications will be Restricted Approved qualifications. This means that they will be the only versions of these qualifications that will feature on QiW [Qualifications in Wales database] as being eligible for funding on programmes of learning funded by Welsh Government or local authorities. From September 2019, these will be the qualifications that feature in apprenticeship frameworks for learners of all ages undertaking related apprenticeships. Current qualifications will continue to be funded until this point; there will also be a transition period to allow learners who are already undertaking qualifications to be funded to complete their qualifications.

We will commission one or more awarding bodies to develop a single version of each qualification, through a process of fair, open and transparent competition. Between now and September 2017, we will tender for, and award contracts to, awarding bodies to develop new Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications. These new qualifications will be approved for teaching from 1 September 2019; from autumn 2018, the successful awarding bodies will offer training and support materials to all centres.



Only those learners who register for study on or after 1 September of 2019 will take the new qualifications. The new qualifications will replace a number of existing Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications, which are listed our [website](#).

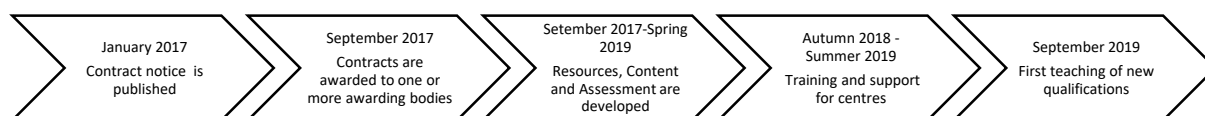
From September 2019, the development of these new qualifications could affect you in the following ways:

- The Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications you currently deliver may no longer be eligible for public funding (other than for learners midway through their qualifications);
- The awarding body delivering your Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications may change, which means that you may need to work with two or more awarding bodies across the suite (this could happen, for example, if the awarding body that wins the contract to develop Childcare qualifications is different from the awarding body that develops Health and Social Care, and you offer qualifications in both subjects);
- The subject content, structure and size of the new qualifications may differ from the ones you currently use;
- External verification and the balance between internal and external assessment may change;
- Registering as part of the social care workforce with the Care Council for Wales (soon to be Social Care Wales), may in the future require post-16 learners to have completed an induction qualification. The induction qualification will be part of this suite of qualifications.
- Qualifications and units that currently exist may not be replaced like for like.

Throughout the development of these new Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications, we will be providing further updates to all centres via our newsletters; we will also be offering events to explain the development of the new qualifications.

There will be opportunities to give feedback on draft versions of the qualifications as they are developed. If you have any further questions on the timescale for the development of the new qualifications or how the changes may affect you, please refer to the dedicated [Health and Social Care and Childcare pages](#) on our website. If you have any queries that are not answered here, please email our Development and Commissioning team at [healthcarereview@qualificationswales.org](mailto:healthcarereview@qualificationswales.org).

Please find below a brief timeline of the stages of development and commissioning of the new Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications to help you visualise the process:



Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Blaker', written in a cursive style.

**Philip Blaker**

Chief Executive