



03/10/2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

Following the publication of our Sector Review of Qualifications and the Qualification System in Health and Social Care including child care and play work, we committed to developing a new suite of qualifications with the aim of all of these being available for first teaching from September 2019.

The new qualifications are being developed and will be delivered by the awarding body Consortium of City and Guilds London Institute and WJEC. They are designed to reduce complexity, reduce burden of assessment and ensure that on completion of their programme of study learners are prepared to undertake further study or work within the Health and Social Care, and Childcare sectors with up to date knowledge, skills and behaviours.

As with any reform of this scale, we are mindful of the changes that will be required of learners, trainers and assessors, centres and employers. I am now writing to provide you with an update on progress so that you can prepare for the change ahead.

The following qualifications **will** be made available for first teaching from September 2019:

- GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare
- Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core

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- Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core
- Level 2 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)
- Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice
- Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts
- Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory
- Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)
- Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Children and Young People)
- Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice
- Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory

The introduction of these qualifications will allow for approximately 80% of all learners wanting to study for a Health and Social Care, and Childcare qualification to register on a reformed qualification from September 2019.

The work required to develop and deliver these new qualifications is significant and we have sought feedback from the sector about the scale of change needed to effectively deliver them. Having considered a range of factors and views very carefully, we have made the decision to **defer** the introduction of a number of the new qualifications so that there is a phased approach to the implementation of the new suite of qualifications. The qualifications deferred are:

- GCE AS and A level in Health and Social Care, and Childcare
- Level 3 Certificate/Diploma in Health and Social Care
- Level 4 Health and Social Care with Specialism
- Level 4 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development with Specialism
- Level 4 Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care
- Level 4 Leadership and Management in Children's Care, Play, learning and Development
- Level 5 Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care
- Level 5 Leadership and Management in Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development

We estimate that the qualifications that are being deferred will affect fewer than one in five learners in the sector.

Reasons for phasing

The reform of these qualifications is a major development for the Welsh education sector. That is why it needs to be treated with care for the benefit of learners, teachers and centres.

Given the scale of change, we think it is right to introduce the new suite of qualifications over a two-year period rather than one. Learners are our priority in making this decision, and phasing in the new qualifications gives centres additional time to prepare for their introduction.

While making this decision we have taken several considerations into account, including:

- The number of learners who would be affected by the decision to defer particular qualifications – we have prioritised those qualifications which will be taken by the highest number of learners
- The level of change and staff training needed to effectively deliver the changes to content and/or assessment when compared to their current equivalent qualifications
- The concerns raised by some stakeholders about the amount of change that a 'big bang' approach to implementation would have on centres; and that a staggered approach might be preferable
- The time needed to develop high quality bilingual qualifications and the time needed to prepare the sector for the introduction of the new qualifications
- Phasing the introduction of the new qualifications allows for the natural progression from one level of qualification to another, for example, the GCSE leading to the AS and A level

Alternative qualifications available

We have contacted the awarding bodies who currently deliver the qualifications that will be replaced by the new suite and can confirm that the following qualifications will continue to be made available until the deferred qualifications are ready:

- WJEC GCE AS and A Level in Health and Social Care (Single Award)
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care (Certificate, Diploma, Extended Certificate and Extended Diploma)
- City and Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care Services
- City and Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Children's Care, Learning and Development

If you currently use equivalent qualifications that are not listed above, please notify us so we can approach the awarding body(ies) concerned.

What this means for centres delivering GCE AS and A level Health and Social Care, and Childcare qualification

This staggered approach is likely to benefit centres as it allows teachers to familiarise themselves with new material, assessment practices and content of the new GCSE from September 2019 prior to the introduction of the new AS and A level in September 2020. Learners registering for the AS and A level in September 2019 will register on the current WJEC AS and A Level in Health and Social Care.

What this means for centres delivering the Level 3 Certificate and Diploma Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualifications

This staggered approach allows teaching staff to familiarise themselves with new material, assessment practices and content of the new Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Context qualification from September 2019 prior to the introduction of the new Level 3 qualification in September 2020. Learners registering for Level 3 knowledge-based

qualifications in Health and Social Care in September 2019 will register on the current BTEC National Health and Social Care qualifications (or available alternatives).

What this means for centres delivering Level 4 and 5 Leadership and Management qualification in Health and Social Care, and Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development

The new Level 4 and Level 5 Leadership and Management qualifications will be available by September 2020 at the latest, and some may be available from January 2020; we will keep you updated on the progress of their development. There will continue to be qualifications and routes available to learners during this period, including:

- City and Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care Services
- City and Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Children's Care, Learning and Development

What this means for centres intending to offer the Level 4 Health and Social Care, and Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development with Specialism Qualifications

Following comprehensive feedback during engagement with stakeholders, we are currently considering with Social Care Wales, NHS Wales and the awarding body consortium the most appropriate approach to the development of these qualifications. This includes the range of specialisms to be offered and the size and structure of the qualifications.

What this means for centres delivering Level 1 qualifications

As part of our programme of reform we are not developing any Level 1 qualifications in Health and Social Care and Childcare. Awarding bodies who currently deliver these qualifications can continue to submit their Level 1 qualifications to us for review for eligibility for public funding. If your centre currently delivers Level 1 qualifications in this area and you wish to continue, please contact your awarding body.

Qualifications and the registration and regulation of the workforce

We continue to work closely with Social Care Wales, who agree with our decision to defer these qualifications. As such, they are committed to ensuring that their Qualifications Framework and the qualifications required for registration reflect the appropriate qualifications, whether current or reformed.

Resources and Continuing Professional Development

As part of the reform programme, the awarding body Consortium is carrying out a programme of training and will be organising events and publishing resources to support the introduction of the new qualifications. Please refer to the Health and Care Learning Wales website for further information.

We are conscious that qualification reform of this scale is a major exercise, which is why decisions relating to timelines for first teaching need to be treated with diligence and careful thought in order to benefit learners, teachers, centres and ultimately the sector. By introducing these new qualifications over two years rather than one, we appreciate that

some will not meet their original timelines. However, taking everything into consideration we believe the phased approach is the most effective one. Further information about the reforms, qualifications available, their purpose and any workforce regulations associated with them can be found at:

www.qualificationswales.org

www.healthandcarelearning.wales (awarding body Consortium website)

www.qiw.wales (qualifications in Wales database)

www.socialcare.wales

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with us at development@qualificationswales.org.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Blaker

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

Chief Executive



Annex A

The following reformed qualifications will be available for first teaching **from September 2019**:

GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare

This qualification will introduce learners to a broad range of roles within the Health and Social Care (HSC) and Childcare sector. This qualification will replace the current GCSE qualifications in Health and Social Care and Child Development, and other equivalent qualifications. This qualification will be offered as a single and double award. This is a knowledge-based qualification.

Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core

This new qualification will provide learners in work-based learning (WBL), Further Education (FE) Colleges and School 6th Forms with an understanding of the key concepts in HSC and will provide the underpinning knowledge to support completion of many of the Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care qualifications within the suite. Learners will be strongly encouraged to complete this qualification prior to or alongside other level 2 or 3 qualifications within the new suite. This qualification mirrors the content of *All Wales Induction Framework for health and social care*.

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Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core

This new qualification will provide learners in WBL, FE Colleges and School 6th Forms with an understanding of the key concepts in CCPLD and will provide the underpinning knowledge to support completion of many of the Level 2 and 3 CCPLD qualifications within the suite. Learners will be strongly encouraged to complete this qualification prior to or alongside other level 2 or 3 qualifications within the new suite. This qualification is comparable to Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core.

Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts.

This qualification incorporates both knowledge and contexts. The qualification is designed for learners studying at an FE College. Learners will complete a range of contextual topics to enable them to explore a variety of employment pathways. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study the Health and Social Care: Core qualification (Adults and Children and Young People pathways) alongside this qualification. The work/work placement within the qualification will assess elements of the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding.

Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory

This qualification incorporates both knowledge and practice. This qualification is designed for learners studying in FE Colleges and WBL. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study the Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core qualification alongside this qualification. There will be a requirement to undertake a work/work placement within the qualification of 280 hours.

Level 2 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)

A qualification which is practice-based and assesses learners' knowledge and practice. This qualification is designed for learners studying full time at an FE College or through WBL. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study the Health and Social Care: Core qualification (Adults pathway) alongside this course. Learners studying this qualification full time at an FE College will need to complete an assessed work placement.

Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice

A qualification which is practice-based and assesses learners' knowledge and practice. This qualification is designed for learners in WBL or studying full time at an FE College. The qualification will assess learners' knowledge and practice through work/work placement. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study the Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core qualification alongside this qualification. On successful completion this qualification will enable learners to work as a qualified childcare practitioner in a supervised capacity.

Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)

A qualification which is practice-based and will assess learners' knowledge and practice. This qualification is designed for learners working in a relevant adult focussed setting and can be delivered through WBL. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study the Health and Social Care: Core qualification (Adults pathway) alongside this course. Learners need to be employed in relevant work to undertake this qualification. Unlike the level 2 qualification, this cannot be undertaken whilst on work placement. This qualification will have UCAS tariff points.

Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Children and Young People)

A qualification which is practice-based and will assess learners' knowledge and practice. This qualification is designed for learners working in a relevant children and young people focussed setting and can be delivered through WBL. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study the Health and Social Care: Core (Children and Young People pathway) alongside this course. Learners need to be employed in relevant work to undertake this qualification. This qualification will have UCAS tariff points.

Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory

This qualification incorporates both knowledge and practice. This qualification will be designed to be delivered to learners in FE Colleges and WBL. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study the Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core qualification alongside this qualification. Delivery of this qualification to students studying full time at an FE College will need to include an assessed work placement of 700 hours. This qualification will have UCAS tariff points.

Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice

A qualification which is practice-based and assesses learners' knowledge and practice. This qualification is designed for learners in WBL or studying full time at an FE College. The qualification will assess learners' knowledge and practice through work/work placement. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study the Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core qualification alongside this qualification. This qualification will have UCAS tariff points.

The following reformed qualifications will be available **from September 2020**:

Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts

A qualification which is knowledge based. This qualification will be designed to be delivered to learners in FE Colleges but may also be delivered by schools, where appropriate. Learners will be strongly encouraged to study one pathway of the Health and Social Care: Core alongside this course. This qualification will have a mid-point exit leading to a Certificate in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts. This qualification will have an optional assessed work placement. This qualification will have UCAS tariff points.

Current equivalent qualification available in September 2019: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Health and Social Care (Certificate, Diploma, Extended Certificate and Extended Diploma)

GCE AS and A level in Health and Social Care, and Childcare

A qualification which is knowledge based. This qualification is designed to be delivered to pupils in school 6th forms and learners in FE Colleges. There will be two endorsements (title variants) associated with this qualification dependent on the units taken – (Health and Social Care) or (Childcare and Early Years). This qualification will replace the current AS and A level in Health and Social Care, and equivalent qualifications. This qualification will have a mid-point exit at AS. This qualification will have UCAS tariff points.

Current equivalent qualification available in September 2019: WJEC GCE AS and A level in Health and Social Care (Single Award)

The following reformed qualifications will be available at different points **in 2020**:

Level 4 Health and Social Care with Specialism

A level 4 qualification which is practice-based for learners aiming to specialise in an area of Health and Social Care. This qualification is designed for learners aged 19+. Learners will have a choice of one of a number of key areas in which to specialise. Learners need to be in relevant work to undertake this qualification. This qualification cannot be undertaken whilst on a placement.

Current equivalent qualification available in September 2019: N/A – This is a new qualification with no current equivalent

Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care

This is a knowledge-based qualification for learners aged 19+ who intend to progress to management roles within the HSC sector. This qualification has been designed as a 'stepping stone' qualification for learners wanting to progress to Level 5. This qualification is a prerequisite for the Level 5 Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care: Practice.

Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development

This is a knowledge-based qualification for learners who intend to progress to management roles within the CCPLD sector. This qualification is designed for learners aged 19+. This qualification is a prerequisite for the Level 5 Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development.

Level 4 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development with Specialism

A qualification which is practice-based for learners aiming to specialise in an area of CCPLD. This qualification is designed for learners aged 19+. This qualification has been included in the new suite recognising the need for Continued Professional Development (CPD) within the sector for specific specialisms. Learners need to be in relevant work to undertake this qualification. It cannot be undertaken whilst on placement. Learners will have a choice from a minimum of four key pathways from which to specialise.

Current equivalent qualification available in September 2019: N/A – This is a new qualification with no current equivalent

Level 5 Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care: Practice

This is a practice-based qualification for those in a leadership or management role within the HSC sector. This qualification is designed for learners aged 19+. Learners are required to complete the Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care qualification or a comparable qualification prior to taking this qualification. Successful completion of this qualification will enable learners to apply for registration with SCW as a Registered Manager, providing that they also meet the other registration requirements.

Current equivalent qualification available in September 2019: City and Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care Services

Level 5 Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice

This is a practice-based qualification for those in a leadership or management role within the Childcare sector. This qualification is designed for learners aged 19+. Learners are required to complete the Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development qualification or a comparable qualification prior to taking this qualification. Successful completion of this qualification will enable learners to undertake management roles within the sector.

Current equivalent qualification available in September 2019: City and Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Children's Care, Learning and Development