

## **Answers Provided by Holly Stockdale of Skills for Care**

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At the Learning and Development professional network meeting on 11 September 2024, members asked a number of questions of Holly Stockdale of Skills for Care, which she was unable to answer in the meeting. Holly has provided the following answers for us.

### ***Is the new workforce strategy aligned with that of the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID)?***

We have worked with OHID on the development of the strategy. It's not directly aligned but definitely considered.

### ***Is the new L2 still available to new AND existing staff as originally planned.***

The qualification is now live with x 13 AOs via training providers who have chosen to become approved to deliver for the sector.

Organisations will need to refer to the new funding guidance. DH have recently provided updated information sheets for the sector in support Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification (<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Developing-your-workforce/Care-Certificate/Level-2/Level-2-Adult-Social-Care-Certificate-qualification.aspx>)

### ***When the L2 becomes an apprenticeship in the Autumn, will it be integrated into an existing apprenticeship or will it be an additional standalone one?***

The existing L2 apprenticeship standard currently has the L2 Diploma in Care qualification within. The Trailblazer Group are currently reviewing the standard. The current proposal is that the L2 ASCC qualification will replace the L2 Dip in Care and it will be 'integrated' into the apprenticeship standard. To note this is the proposal at the current time-not yet fully confirmed. There is high activity in the background with the TBG, IfATE, DH and us working on this-it's a very in-depth process. They are working to submit the proposal in Oct, if it does go forward the updated apprenticeship won't go live until next year at some point. Meanwhile the apprenticeship as is continues to be delivered.

***HCPA have told providers that new starters can't start the L2 until they are 6M into their role, whereas they would have started the previous one as part of their induction.***

Whilst the training provider/org acting as the training provider or even the employer may advise the learner starts at 6 months-this is not a stated requirement with the qualification.

From the qualification specification (and this guidance is present within all AOs quals which we have approved), note that this should be driven by the employer.

### ***Learner profile***

Learners will work in adult social care and have responsibility for providing person centred, values-driven care and support for those accessing the service. They will typically work under the direction of their manager or supervisor. We would expect employer specific induction and mandatory training to be completed prior to the learner starting the level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification. However, the employer can decide if the level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate qualification can be completed alongside employer specific induction and mandatory training.