

NEW QUALIFICATION FOR COMMISSIONERS

Those who commission provision for the wellbeing of adults have a real and far-reaching impact on people's lives. By stimulating a rich, diverse and sustainable market of provision, they ensure that personalised support and care is available where, how and when it is needed.

Skills for Care, working with ADASS, local authorities and leading service providers, is currently developing two major new resources to address the learning and development needs of those involved with commissioning. These resources are:

- a comprehensive career framework setting out progression and career development routes for commissioners, highlighting the knowledge and skills they need at each point;
- a suite of qualifications enabling commissioners to develop and achieve recognition for the knowledge and skills they need.

Both resources are intended to support recruitment, progression planning and career development for this significant part of the workforce.

THE CERTIFICATE OF FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE IN COMMISSIONING FOR WELLBEING

The first of the new suite of qualifications will be available through learning providers from September 2016. This is the *Certificate of Fundamental Knowledge in Commissioning for Wellbeing*.

The *Certificate* reflects the modern context of commissioning and embeds the principles and requirements enshrined in the Care Act 2014. It is designed for:

- new commissioners as a form of accredited induction
- existing commissioners who wish to refresh and update their knowledge and improve their working practice
- people who wish to understand the role of the commissioner and position themselves for future progression into the commissioning workforce

CONTENT

The *Certificate* is structured under four headings:

- 1. The role of the commissioner for wellbeing**
- 2. The commissioning cycle**
- 3. Outcomes-based commissioning**
- 4. Professional development for effective commissioning**

Under these headings, the content covers all aspects of the commissioning cycle and addresses key concepts including:

- Outcomes based commissioning
- Coproduction
- The commercial context of service provision
- Market shaping
- Market position statements
- Workforce shaping
- Integrated services
- Professional development

The *Certificate* will be accredited at Level 5 on the new Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), equivalent to study at year 2 of a university or foundation degree

LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

The *Certificate of Fundamental Knowledge in Commissioning for Wellbeing* is best studied through a 'blended learning' approach, which may include online workbooks, guided study, action learning sets, personal reflection and preparation for workplace application. Learning will generally be assessed through written assignments such as dissertations and reflective journals.

Learning providers wishing to offer the *Certificate* will need to register with Highfield / HABC, the awarding organisation accredited by Ofqual to offer the qualification.

FURTHER DETAILS

Learning providers, local authorities and potential learners wishing to find out more about the *Certificate* can contact slqa@skillsforcare.org.uk for further details.