

# Purpose Statement

## Open Awards Level 5 Diploma in Leading and Managing an Adult Care Service (RQF)

The Open Awards Level 5 Diploma in Leading and Managing an Adult Care Service is a regulated occupational qualification for the adult social care workforce in England.

Its purpose is to confirm occupational competence in a leadership and management role within adult care and to support the development of individuals who are responsible for leading and managing a service.

The qualification is designed to reflect the expectations of contemporary adult social care leadership. It provides a substantial mandatory core, supported by optional content, so that you can develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to lead services, manage quality of care, support and develop staff, and drive improvement within adult care settings.

### Who is it for?

This qualification is for you if you work in adult social care in England and who have responsibility for leading and managing a service.

This includes responsibility for managing and improving care and support for people accessing the service, supporting and developing the workforce, and shaping the vision of your service or organisation.

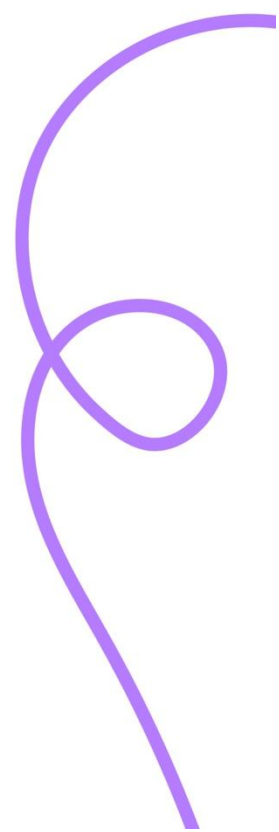
It is primarily intended to support the development of registered managers of adult social care services, particularly those who are new to the role. It is therefore suitable if you are in a role that requires leadership, management, accountability and oversight of service delivery in adult care.

### What does this qualification cover?

The qualification covers the knowledge, understanding and occupational competence required for effective leadership and management in adult social care. Its content includes leadership and management, governance and regulatory processes, decision making, business and resource management, team leadership, supervision, safeguarding, mental capacity, partnership working, complaints, communication, information handling, leading person-centred practice, health and wellbeing, equality, diversity, inclusion, health and safety, continuous development and personal wellbeing.

Optional content allows the qualification to reflect different service contexts and leadership responsibilities. This includes areas such as coaching and mentoring, digital leadership and transformation, infection prevention and control leadership, integrated working, managing the mental health and wellbeing of others, finance and budgeting, quality assurance, recruitment and retention, risk management, trauma-informed practice, and autism and neurodiversity in adult social care.

The qualification is graded pass or fail.



## What are the entry requirements?

You must be aged over 18 to undertake this qualification.

There are no specific prior qualification requirements, but you must be employed, either full-time or part-time, in a suitable adult social care setting so you can develop and demonstrate the competencies required by the qualification.

You should have responsibility for leading and managing within your service and should have access to appropriate supervision and mentoring opportunities. Employer-specific induction and mandatory training are expected to be completed before you begins the qualification, although your employer may decide whether these can be completed alongside the diploma where appropriate.

## What are the assessment methods?

You are required to build a portfolio of evidence over time.

Assessment methods may include written assessment activities, observation of performance, questioning, practical activities, photographs or videos, personal statements, reflective logs, project work, witness testimony, group discussion and professional discussion.

Skills-based assessment is centred on workplace observation while knowledge-based assessment may take place in or outside your real work environment.

## What are the progression opportunities?

This qualification supports progression within adult social care by enabling you to develop and demonstrate competent leadership and management practice. It is particularly relevant for progression into, or development within, registered manager roles and other positions involving operational responsibility, service leadership and workforce management.

It also provides a basis for continued professional development and further learning. Depending on your role and career aims, progression may include advanced leadership and management development, specialist study within adult social care, or broader professional pathways linked to quality improvement, governance and service leadership.

## Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is approved by Skills for Care and has been designed in response to the updated content and assessment principles developed for the adult care sector in England. It reflects the expectations of the sector and is intended to provide a credible and meaningful qualification for those leading and managing adult care services in England.

