

The Level 2 Certificate In Personal Development and Learning for Unpaid Carers (Learning for Living)

Funding Guidance Information for England

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Introduction

City & Guilds has developed a qualification called *The Level 2 Certificate In Personal Development and Learning for Unpaid Carers* and an accompanying online learning resource called *Learning for Living*.

Please note that the title *Learning for Living* is NOT known to the Learning and Skills Councils (LSCs) or the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) so you will not be able to get funding quoting this title. Please instead use the qualification title above or the accreditation number **100/3597/7 when talking with the LSC.**

The qualification is listed on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). This means that centres eligible for Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding may be able to draw-down funding at a listed rate (ie: it is potentially fundable depending on the circumstances of the learner, centre and the priorities of the local LSC).

In all cases we would stress that the final decision about whether you will be funded is a local one based on the plans agreed between providers and the local LSC. If you are in any doubts about whether your provision qualifies for funding, you must discuss it with your local LSC.

Using the listed rate

The listed rate for this programme is **£388.00** per learner (for 2005/6).

However, you may be aware that for all funding rates there is an 'assumed fee element.' This assumes that adult learners and those who don't fall into certain categories should pay something towards the cost of a learning programme.

In some cases this fee element (25%) is waived because the learner satisfies certain eligibility criteria. One of the criteria is that those personally in receipt of a means-tested benefit such as income support, housing benefit or council tax benefit may have this fee waived. The carers allowance is not means-tested and so there is no automatic right to have the assumed fee element

waived. If the carer also happens to be in receipt of any of the other benefits mentioned then they could be eligible to get this fee paid.

For more information on the LSC listed rate, please view the Learning Aim Database: <http://providers.lsc.gov.uk/lad/> and <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/section97/> Section 97 site. The accreditation number to quote is **100/3597/7**. (Please do not search for 'Learning for Living' but instead either use the accreditation number or the full name of the qualification (see above).

The funding of online learning follows the general approach of FE funding. That is that funding rates are based on the costs necessarily incurred in the delivery of the learning aim. The listed rate for this qualification is based on 60 guided learning hours (glh). Please note that where the online learning resource is used, e-tutoring time will be substantially less than 60 hours, (approximately 5 hours). The LSC uses guided learning hours as a proxy for costs in determining funding rates. This means that the funding at the listed-rate should also cover other costs associated with the support of the learning aim (eg: the cost of the online learning licenses). See section 10 'Distributed and Electronic Learning' in the 'Funding Guidance Document for Further Education 2004/5'

You may discuss with the LSC the 'weighted-rates' of funding in addition to the listed-rate should they be happy to take this route.

Meeting LSC priorities

The LSC, (www.lsc.gov.uk), publishes a document called 'The Equality And Diversity Strategy 2004/7'. It states that LSCs "...must make sure the sector reaches out to groups of people who are not currently involved in learning". The LSC also has a 'Widening Participation Strategy' and a strategy for 'Working Together' (Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy).

The following information may be useful when talking with your LSC representatives. It has been sent to the local Health & Social Care and Voluntary contacts. In discussions it may be worth asking about local policies and priorities in relation to widening participation, social inclusion and equality and diversity.

Information for your local LSC

"There is a new level 2 qualification from City & Guilds accredited on the National Qualification Framework and 'Section 97' called 'The Level 2 Certificate in Personal Development & Learning for Unpaid Carers'. It is designed to build on and accredit the knowledge, understanding and skills of people who are unpaid carers, either currently or in the recent past. An unpaid carer is someone who looks after a family member, partner or friend in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. Unpaid carers are often severely disadvantaged members of society, suffering from social exclusion, little free time, isolation and diminished confidence.

The award provides carers with an opportunity for self development, confidence building and preparation for other roles and choices in their lives and to transfer the skills acquired in the caring role.

For many carers, this qualification is likely to provide an opportunity of returning to more formal learning and is in the nature of access provision. This is also reflected in the duration of the programme, a total of 60 hours with 4 units of 15 hours each, which makes it manageable by carers who may have very limited time in which to pursue their own interests. (The above hours are based on face to face delivery of the qualification using the online resource. There are a number of different ways centres can deliver the *Learning for Living* qualification.)

An online learning resource called Learning for Living has been created to support learners taking this qualification. It provides the flexibility carers need so they can take part in the learning anytime and/or anywhere. For more information about this programme please visit the website www.learning-for-living.co.uk or email carers@cityandguilds.com

Learners may choose a range of progression pathways: entry or re-entry into the workplace, further learning at level 2 or above in an area of personal interest, or learning related to employment within a broad spectrum of occupational areas, including the health or social care sector or in supervisory management.

The qualification will facilitate carers' inclusion into social and economic life and, for many, will offer an invaluable opportunity to re-engage with a range of interests outside the caring role. The scheme could contribute to improving local economies by helping to lower unemployment, increase the volume of people doing voluntary work in the community, and serve the needs of local employers.

The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 was given Royal Assent on 22 July 2004. The Act states that when undertaking a carer's assessment, the local authority must consider whether the carer works, undertakes any form of education, training or leisure activity, or wishes to do any of those things. It also provides for co-operation between local authorities and other bodies in relation to the planning and provision of services that are relevant to carers.

'The Equality and Diversity Strategy 2004/7' states that LSCs "...must make sure the sector reaches out to groups of people who are not currently involved in learning". This award will help address these issues, as well the LSC's 'Widening Participation Strategy' and the LSC's 'Working Together' (Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy).

Some LSCs may be interested from the workforce development (skills) angle (i.e.: where some unpaid carers choose to work towards becoming paid carers). Other LSCs may be interested from their remit to 'Widen Participation' (social inclusion) in learning for disadvantaged groups.

Providers not approved as City & Guilds' centres and/or ineligible for mainstream LSC funding

Community-based carers' organisations that are not approved City & Guilds centres may wish to partner with a local council, college or training centre approved to run City & Guilds qualifications. If you need help finding a partner please contact carers@cityandguilds.com.

If you are an approved City & Guilds centre but are not eligible for LSC funding, or if you wish to run the online learning resource informally without the qualification, you may wish to explore the other sources of funding below.

ESF as an alternative source of funding

The European Social Fund (ESF), www.esf.gov.uk, could be an alternative source of funding if:

- you are not able to get mainstream LSC funding,
- you are running the programme informally (without the qualification),
- you intend to run a support-intensive or broad approach where this fits into a broader programme not covered by the LSC listed-rate.

Centres may wish to apply under local joint LSC and European Social Funding (ESF) bids. Centres should contact their local LSC for information about any opportunities for such bids in their local area. Go to www.lsc.gov.uk, search under 'local view' and look for local ESF pages.

In addition, many of the English JobCentre Plus regions became co-financing organisation (CFO) for ESF funding. Please see the JobCentre Plus website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk and click on 'Partners Home' and then 'European Social Fund'. Centres should also contact their local Jobcentre Plus ESF representative using this site.

Skills For Care (formally known as Topss), <http://www.topssengland.net>, is the workforce development body for social care. Some local Skills For Care projects may help to fund the application for ESF bids. Visit the website to contact your local Skills For Care representative. If you need help in writing your bid we may be able to put you in contact with people who have been successful in ESF bids for this programme.

The ESF 'Objective 3' has carers as a target group. Objective 3 covers things like tackling long-term unemployment, training, education and counselling for lifelong learning. You can apply either at regional or national level.

Local Councils and the Carers (Equals Opportunities) Act 2004

The Act states that when undertaking a carer's assessment, the local authority must consider whether the carer works, undertakes any form of education, training or leisure activity, or wishes to do any of those things. It also provides for co-operation between local authorities and other bodies in relation to the planning and provision of services that are relevant to carers.

Please visit the website of your local council, (normally www.townname.gov.uk. eg: www.manchester.gov.uk or www.york.gov.uk), and contact social services. Some social services will have a carers' coordinator (also sometimes called 'carers lead' or 'carers development worker'). Some local councils have separate sections of their website for carers. They may also help inform registered carers that you are running the scheme.

Some councils may be able to offer funding for the scheme from the Carers Grant, (especially for respite and travel costs), others may wish to play a part in approaching the local LSC for funding.

Other funding sources

Please contact us if you require a partnership letter or endorsement letter to accompany your funding bid. carers@cityandguilds.com

Big lottery Fund (www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) 'Reaching Communities' is an exciting England wide programme that will provide funding to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. These include geographic communities and also communities with shared interests, such as people with poor mental health and people who are hard to reach. The three-year programme, launched on 7 December 2005, will make up to £100 million available in 2006-07, with future budgets being set annually. In June 2006 a new lottery scheme will be launched called 'Family Learning'.

Grant giving trusts: www.trustfunding.org.uk. This is a subscription site for searching for grant giving trusts. Large trusts funding education include: Garfield Weston Foundation (www.garfieldweston.org), Nuffield Foundation (www.nuffieldfoundation.org), The Tudor Trust (<http://www.tudortrust.org.uk>), The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk) and The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts.

New Deal for Communities (www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus/New_Deal_for_Communities2) is a community based regeneration program funded by the government to help some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. There are 39 neighbourhoods now covered by NDC (see link above).

Awards for All (www.awardsforall.org.uk) is a Lottery grants programme aimed at local communities. They award grants of between £500 and £5000. Many local schemes support funding for carers and there is a lack of applications for grants in some areas!

Community Foundation Network (CFN) www.communityfoundations.org.uk is the national network linking, promoting and supporting over 60 community foundations throughout England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Find your local Community Foundation here.

Abbey (www.aboutabbey.com/home_inv/comm_inv-trust.htm) has a charitable trust and education for disadvantaged communities is one of their focuses. They focus mainly on where they have Community Partnership Groups, (Camden, Glasgow, Bradford, Milton Keynes, Sheffield, Northern Ireland, Teesside). Email: communitypartnership@abbey.com

Barclays Bank

(<http://www.personal.barclays.co.uk/BRC1/jsp/brcontrol?task=articlesocial&site=pfs&value=3184&menu=2946>) Sponsorship and donations – one of their focus areas is education and another is social inclusion.

Co-operative Bank (<http://www.cooperativebank.co.uk>) Click 'Ethics in Action' then 'Community Involvement'. The Community Funding programme supports mostly the North West around Manchester, Salford, Stockport, and Skelmersdale although they also consider projects outside these areas.

Marks & Spencers

(http://www2.marksandspencer.com/thecompany/ourcommitmenttosociety/community/Community_funding/index.shtml) They focus on projects improving employability, schemes that help people on their journey towards finding work, directly or indirectly. Projects should apply to their local store.

Leonardo da Vinci (www.leonardo.org.uk) is a European Community programme which aims to support national training strategies through funding a range of transnational partnership projects aimed at improving quality, fostering innovation and promoting the European dimension in vocational training.

The Lloyds TSB Foundation (www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk) are a grant-making trust making grants to charities. Their mission is to support and work in partnership with charitable organisations which help people, especially those who are disadvantaged or disabled, to play a fuller role in communities throughout England and Wales.

Contributions from Carers

Some centres commonly ask learners, including those on benefits, for a small contribution (often to show a commitment and help towards costs).

Although carers are often not in a position to be receiving income from an employer, the following are possible sources of funding for individuals to help pay a contribution fee to a centre. They may also be sources of funding for providers if LSC funding is not available or if you wish to use the online learning resource informally without the qualification. Most of the funding sources below are normally applied for by individuals.

Educational Grants Advisory Service

Guidance and advice on funding. Contact 0207 254 6251 or go to www.egas-online.org/fwa

Direct Payments and Carers' Grants

Under the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004, social services are empowered to give Direct Payments and Carers Grants to carers for education, training and leisure activities. Carers should ask for a 'Carers Assessment'. Help is available from Contact A Family, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Carers UK. Email: OPDEnquiries@doh.gsi.gov.uk
www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/FinanceAndPlanning 08701 555 455

Princess Royal Trust for Carers (PRTC) - www.carers.org

Individual carers may apply for education bursaries. Search for your local PRTC centre using this site and ask them for advice regarding PRTC bursaries and other sources of funding.

Carers Allowance Unit

Deals with all claims for Carer's Allowance tel 01253 856123

Disability Living Allowance (DLA):

For this and other benefits, The Benefits Enquiry Line 0800 882 200

New Deal for Lone Parents

Help for single parents finding work -0800 868 868

The Adult Dependants' Grant

This may be available if a carer has an adult who is financially dependent on them. Applications via the local LEA for a grant.

Family Fund

Provides grants to families with severely disabled or seriously ill children.
www.familyfund.org.uk

Adult Dependents Grant

Might be applying if you have a family member who is dependent on you. Apply through your local LEA for a grant.

Family Welfare Association

Can provide grants (social workers make applications)
www.fwa.org.uk

JobCentre Plus

Provide New Deal funding, www.newdeal.gov.uk, (to get people back to work) and are involved in European Social Fund bids (ESF). Please see the Jobcentre Plus website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk and the section above regarding ESF bids. If you are a single parent, there is also New Deal for Lone Parents. 0800 868 868

Care Aware

www.careaware.co.uk They offer advice for funding carers of older people. 08705 134 925.

Learning Support Funds

For support with childcare and the costs of materials, equipment and getting to and from courses. 0845 602 2260 or 0800 100 900

The Educational Grants Advisory Service (EGAS)

Practical guidance on funding. 0207 254 6251

The Elizabeth Nuffield Educational Fund

Grants for women for child care. Also publish 'A guide to support for adult learners caring for Disabled children or other family members'. 020 7631 0566 www.nuffieldfoundation.org

Charities offering education grants to individuals (and sometimes organisations).

Carers can apply as individuals for grants to the following organisations:

National

Thomas Wall Trust
0207 6381753 www.thomaswalltrust.org.uk

North East England

Charities Administered By County Durham Foundation (i) Hylton House Fund.
If you are the carer of someone with cerebral palsy.
0191 383 2969 www.cpunitydurhamfoundation.co.uk

North West

The Bishop David Sheppard Anniversary Trust.
If you are aged between 21 and 49 and live in and around Liverpool.
0151 709 9722.

The Sheila Kay Fund.
If you are living in Merseyside.
0151 707 4305 enquiries@skfunding.org.uk

The Sylvia Fund.
If you are a women over 25 in Liverpool and surrounding areas.
Penny Watson, Moss House, Pasture Lane, Fornby, Liverpool, L37 OAP.

Midlands

The W E Dunn Trust.
For mature students in West Midlands.
01564 773407.

Becket Bulmer Charitable Trust.
People who live in the Herefordshire area.
S Bulmer, Trustee, The Old Rectory, Credenhill, Hereford, HR4 7DJ

Hereford society for Aiding the Industrious.
People living in Herefordshire.
01432 274014.

The Leicester Charity Link.
If you live in Leicestershire and Rutland.
0116 222 2200 info@charity-link.org

The Kitchings General Charity.
If you are a mature student living in Bardney, Tupholme and Becknall.

Sir Thomas White's Charity Warwick.
People under 35 in Warwick.
01926 495533.

The James Frederick & Ethel Anne Measures Charity.
People living in West Midlands.
Sally Darby, Clerk to the Trustees, Harris Allday, 2nd Floor, 33 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
B3 3JN

South West

Viscount Amoy's Charitable Trust.
People living in South West.
01884 254899.

The Elmgrant Trust.
People living in the South West.
01803 863 160.

Second Chance Trust For Devon and Cornwall.
People living in Devon and Cornwall over the age of 30.
01392 832895

The Bristol Municipal Charities.
People who live within a 10mile radius of Bristol city centre.
0117 925 3824 info@bristolcharities.org.uk www.bristolcharities.org.uk

Chippenham Borough Lands Charity.
People who have lived in Chippenham for 2 years or more.
01249 658180 cblc@lineone.net

South East

The E E Roberts Charitable Trust.
People in Sussex and Kent.
01892 506051 rbm@crippslaw.com

Crowthorne Trust.
People living in or around Crowthorne.
01344 444017
rec@wellington-college.berks.sch

The Earley Charity
People living in Earley, East and South Reading and surrounding areas.
0118 975 5663

Stretham Charity
People living in Stretham
Miss V Baylis, 4 Hay Fren Close, Stretham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3\NE

The Ashford Hill Educational Trust
People living in Ashford Hill or the surrounding area.

01635 268493

Thorngate Relief-In-Need and General Charity
People living in Gosport.
023 9250 2558.

Headley-Pitt Charitable Trust
People who live in Kent
01233 623831

The Casselden Trust
People living in Dover
01304 375499

Ann Peirson Charitable Trust
People in Hythe, Kent
01303 260779

Cliffe at Hoo Parochial Charity
People living in Cliffe at Hoo, and Cooling in Rochester.

The Wilmington Parochial Charity
People living in Wilmington (on receipt of means-tested benefits)
01322 226335

The Brancaster Educational & Almshouse Charity
People living in Brancaster, Titchwell, Thornham, and Burham Deepdale.
01485 210645

Picto Buxton Charity
People in Buxton with Lamas.
01603 279203

Norwich Town Close Estimate Charity
People in Norwich
01603 621023

The Stevens Hart & Municipal Educational Charity
People in Bix and Rotherfield Greys and Henley on Thames.
Mrs JE Picket, Henley Municipal Charities, Town Hall, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 2AQ

Annie Tranmer Charitable Trust
People in 15mile radius of Woodbridge in Suffolk
Mrs MR Kirby, 51 Bennett Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 5HX

The Dennington Consolidated Charities
People living in Dennington
WTF Blakeley, Clerk, Thorn House, Saxtead Road, Dennington, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 8AP.

The Chertsey Combined Charity
People living in Chertsey
MRO Sullivan, Secretary, PO Box 89, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8HW

The Chessington Charities
People who have lived in Chessington for more than 1 year.
0108 397 4733

The Henry Smith Charity
People in Tandridge
01342 832376.

London

The British and Foreign School Society Trust Fund
People who have lived in Bermonsey, Bethnal Green, Poplar, Southwark and Stepney for 2 years or more.
01883 331177

The Hyde Foundation
People in Chipping Barnet and Monken Hadley
020 8449 3032

Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust
People in Hampstead
020 7435 1570

The Old Enfield Charitable Trust
People in Enfield
020 8366 7898

Other Useful Contacts

Carers UK - www.carersonline.org.uk
Citizens Advice Bureau - www.adviceguide.org.uk
Contact A Family - www.cafamily.org.uk
Age Concern - www.ageconcern.org.uk or www.ageconcernscotland.org.uk.
Free phone 0800 009966
Disability Alliance - www.disabilityalliance.org
MENCAP www.mencap.org.uk
SCOPE www.scope.org.uk
Independent Living Fund - www.ilf.org.uk
Money Matters www.moneymatterstome.co.uk
Benefit enquiry phone line, Carers Free phone 0800 882200
Department of Health www.carers.gov.uk and
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/Audiences/CaringForSomeone/>
Pensions www.pensionguide.gov.uk and www.thepensionservice.gov.uk