

L5 certificate in

Commissioning for wellbeing

with a Learning Disability and
Autism Focus - Pilot 2020/21

Launched by Highfield Qualifications, this qualification was developed by Skills for Care, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS), the Local Government Association (LGA) and United Kingdom Homecare Association (UKHCA) in partnership with commissioners, provider associations and personal assistant employers, to support the learning and development needs of people who commission social care services.



Why is this qualification important?

To be able to improve outcomes for people accessing services commissioners need to develop the knowledge and skills needed to commission services that truly reflect the needs, preferences and aspirations of people wanting or needing to access wellbeing services.

To do this, commissioners need to fully understand the market, legislative requirements, population needs and other key aspects to design innovative interventions, recognise where services may not be achieving outcomes, and take appropriate action.

This qualification focuses on commissioners maintaining a focus on people, the importance of consultation and co-production at every stage of the commissioning cycle in order to achieve improved services and better outcomes for people with learning disabilities and autism.

[!\[\]\(cf531ed27e91483460120fcc057b3901_img.jpg\) Find out more about the full qualification specification.](#)

in association with

Pilot 2020

Commissioning support for people with a learning disability and autistic people is a key part of work for commissioning teams in social care, health, housing and education. Commissioning decisions need to be revisited and revised as an individual's life circumstances change.

When support for people with a learning disability and / or autism is commissioned well, it can make a significant difference to someones life. That's why having a good understanding of individuals and the circumstances that surround them is a key part of the skill set for everyone with a commissioner role.

The L5 commissioning for wellbeing qualification has been delivered with a focus on commissioning provision for people with learning disabilities and / or autism which is a key part of transforming services and improving skills and knowledge this area.

Throughout 2020 Skills for Care, in partnership with Bespoke Consultancy Education, has been delivering a pilot to deliver the qualification with a learning disability and autism focus. It aims to assist commissioners to rethink and improve their commissioning practice. In April 2020, a cohort of 12 commissioners (six from social care and six from health) began undertaking the L5 Commissioning for Wellbeing with a Learning Disability and Autism focus.

This is what some of the learners have said so far...

I will be able to better advocate for the needs of people with Learning disability and autism with senior managers, especially when it comes to decisions around expenditure.

All commissioners should do this course and it should be fundamental to every aspect to a commissioners world.

I think it's very important as commissioners to understand the challenges all of us are facing so that we can coordinate them.

I just feel having a greater knowledge and understanding is going to help me with my job going forward.

I'm hoping that by doing this course we will be able to show evidence....that we can do a little bit more than we would do normally.

Next steps

The pilot is being supported by a steering group that consists of representatives from Health Education England, Local Government Association, Experts by Experience, Social Care Providers, Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England / Improvement. The group is actively advocating the promotion, delivery and outcomes of the pilot with a view to supporting the wider role out in 2020/21.

NHSei have been happy to support the Learning Disability and Autism specific training for commissioners. The specific value base and knowledge required is essential in driving person centred approaches and coproduction, all essential requirements in delivering positive outcomes for people with a Learning Disability, Autism or both



Mark Tucker, Senior Learning Disability and Autism Programme Assurance Manager and SEND Lead
NHS England and NHS Improvement South West



We recognise that people become commissioners from a variety of backgrounds and there are limited commissioning qualifications that enable commissioners to understand the specific inequalities people with a learning disability or Autistic people face, and to design solutions to enable them to live good lives.

We are pleased to have been involved in the development and pilot of the Level 5 Certificate in Commissioning for Wellbeing with a Learning Disability and Autism focus. The skills and understanding gained from the qualification will enable commissioners and their teams to embrace co-production, focus on personalisation across all aspects of a person's life, be confident in legal literacy, and thereby commission outcomes that will improve the health and wellbeing of people with a learning disability or Autistic people.

Simon Williams, Director of Social Care Improvement
Local Government Association

The qualification will give you the opportunity to...

- Identify the core features and scope of those who carry out commissioning for wellbeing; and how these fit with wider trends in health and social care, housing, funding and public service reform.
- Understand the importance of consultation and coproduction at every stage of the commissioning cycle.
- Improve your ability to respond to the market - plan more efficiently by achieving a detailed understanding of how to assess and meet current and future population needs.
- Analyse your learning needs to ensure knowledge and skills as a commissioner for wellbeing are developed and maintained.

The qualification takes approximately nine to twelve months to complete. The Total Qualification Time (TQT) required for this qualification is expected to be in the region of 230 hours with approximately 56 self-directed learning hours. It is a significant commitment to undertake the training, research and assignments to achieve this qualification; however the benefits of completing, meeting the learning outcomes and the opportunity to train as part of a cohort and hear from individuals with lived experience are well worth the investment.

For transformation of services to be achieved and care and support to be developed in true co-production, commissioning practices need to push the boundaries by being creative and invest in possibilities. Leaders and influencers need to understand, and advocate, the importance of being able to commission services around the individual by taking into consideration practices that enable flexibility, innovation and discovery.

The course although interesting is not for the faint of heart as there is a lot of work to process which needs reflecting on to ensure proper dues given to this piece of work and the support of the manager of the person completing it!

The qualification is challenging and pushes you – it's not easy but the gains are immeasurable! It is also an opportunity to meet contacts and share learning.

A 100% worth it!

How the qualification can influence practice and benefit people who use services:

Whilst on the Commissioning for Wellbeing Course I was given the opportunity to learn more about how to use co-production and make service user involvement more meaningful. Prior to the course I was inexperienced in this area and lacked confidence and understanding to take the necessary steps to ensure that the services recipient (as well as their families were given a chance to influence how the new service would operate.

For one contract, I revisited various elements of the new specification that I felt could have better reflected the voice of the service recipient. I am still going through the procurement process, but so far, I have engaged with the Participation Team and spoken to the service recipients about their experiences and ask how much involvement they would like.

I have learnt what co-production means (really) and the impact it can have on an individual, their family, their community and the Service Provider. The service offer can look very different from commissioner assumptions, after service users have been involved and has proven to be more affective over the long term.

I am still developing skills around how to write questionnaires and workshops... However, it is thanks to the Commissioning for Wellbeing course that I can recognise the importance and have the confidence of introducing this into my work.

Learner who took part in the pilot

 [Commissioning for wellbeing.](#)