

January 2026

Dear _____

The Northern Ireland Social Care Council (the Social Care Council) has funding, from the Office of Social Services (OSS), Department of Health, to support the social care workforce's learning and development.

This funding is to train staff to become vocational qualification assessors, in the field of Health and Social Care, across the independent (community & voluntary and private) and statutory sectors in Northern Ireland (NI). Private training organisations are also eligible to apply for this funding.

Applications will only be considered to support assessor training for the following Health and Social Care (Northern Ireland) qualifications¹:

- *Level 2 Certificate in Safe and Effective Practice.*
- *Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care (NI).*
- *Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (NI).*
- *Level 4 Certificate in Principles of Leadership and Management for Adult Care Health and Social Care.*
- *Level 4 Diploma in Health and Social Care.*
- *Level 5 Diplomas in Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care* (both Adult Management and Adult Residential Management pathways).

The attached 'Rules/Terms and Conditions' provide further detail about eligibility. Employers must commit to registering funded staff **before 31st March 2026** and, in turn, to support these staff completing the qualification within the required time period.

Note: Preference will be given to applications that lead to assessment of the *Level 2 Certificate in Safe and Effective Practice*, the entrance level qualification on the [Care in Practice Framework \(the CiP Framework\)](#) available for social care practitioners.

Applications can only be submitted using the Citizen Space online application process ([link below](#)).

Closing date for applications is: **5pm on Friday 23rd January 2026**.

For any further clarification please email: Workforcedevelopment@niscc.hscni.net.

¹ The qualifications listed are current but will be superseded by the reviewed qualifications, aligned with the Care in Practice Framework (CiP Framework), see: <https://careinpractice.niscc.info>.

Yours sincerely,

Mervyn Bothwell
Professional Adviser

Sharon Foster
Workforce Development Officer