

Funding of Level 2 Certificates in Safe and Effective Practice: Department of Health funding support

administered by the Social Care Council (SCC)

- 1) The Social Care Council (SCC) seeks to ensure that opportunities for funding support of the Level 2 Certificate in Safe and Effective Practice are made available to Independent Sector (private and community & voluntary) organisations via communications to social care employers/social care managers. This will be achieved by direct communication and posting information on the SCC's website.
- 2) Funding opportunities are not available to the statutory sector.
- 3) Calls for applications will be communicated with deadlines stated for employers to make applications. Applications received after deadlines will be placed on a reserve list/in a reserve pool.
- 4) Only applications that have been fully completed will be initially considered for funding support. Where incomplete, the SCC will reject or request further information.
- 5) Available **funding is for qualification fees only**. Funding is not available to cover staffing costs/ absence while qualifications are completed.
- 6) Applications for funding support **must** be signed off by a CEO, Director or a Senior Manager/Manager within an organisation with the understanding that learners will complete the qualifications and the employer will provide support for their employees for the duration of the course.
- 7) Applications will only be considered for staff with an **active Registration on Part 2** of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council Register and who have **been in employment for at least one calendar month** at the time of application.
- 8) At the initial stage (December 2024) social care organisations, can apply for funding support for a **maximum of two members of staff**.
- 9) The SCC will fund successful social care organisations. It is the responsibility of employers to source the training provider/s.
- 10) Applications must be received by the SCC by **5pm on 10 January 2025**. The SCC will endeavour to inform social care organisations of the outcome of their applications by 17 January 2025.

- 11) Decisions on the allocation of funding support will be taken at a SCC panel. Value for money and benchmarking will determine how much funding is available per organisation.
- 12) Appropriate applications not successful at initial stage, due to the limit of available funding, will be held on a waiting list/in a reserve pool. These applications will take priority over those referred to at point 3 above.
- 13) Successful organisations may not receive the total amount requested; the SCC will not exceed a maximum amount payable to any individual organisation.
- 14) Successful organisations must confirm that registrants they apply for have registered for, or have commenced, the Level 2 Certificate in Safe and Effective Practice before funding is released. **This must occur by Friday 28 February, 2025.** Additionally, employers must agree to ensure that successful applicants complete this qualification no later than 30 September 2025.
- 15) Incomplete qualifications may result in a return of funding by employers.
- 16) Successful organisations must provide an appropriate invoice to the SCC before funding is released. **This must occur by 5pm on 28 February, 2025.**
- 17) Coaching and mentoring opportunities will be made available by the SCC to assist social care staff/employers/line managers in the completion of this qualification. By accepting funding, social care employers are agreeing to have contact details of candidates passed over to the Coaching and Mentoring professional contracted by the SCC.
- 18) Successful organisations, in accepting funding, are agreeing to respond to requests for information from the SCC on updates regarding funded qualifications.
- 19) The SCC will endeavour to pay invoices to social care employers before **31 March 2025.**

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