

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

Funding Guidance Information for Wales

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Introduction

City & Guilds has developed a level 2 qualification called *The 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 Education and Learning for Wales (ELWa) or ACCAC the Qualifications Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales 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.

The qualification is part of the ACCAC approved list, (under Section 96 of the Learning & Skills Act 2000). See www.learning.wales.gov.uk under Topic Index select "Curriculum and Qualifications" and scroll down to "Approved Qualifications". The qualification has been approved and is therefore eligible for mainstream funding by ELWa.

ELWa will also consider support under the ILA Wales programme (individual learning accounts) for eligible individuals, subject to the provision being approved and delivered by an ILA Wales registered learning provider.

ILA Wales is aimed at individuals with no or low qualifications and a higher level of support is available for those least able to pay. That is, eligible individuals who are in receipt of an income based benefit. For full details on the ILA Wales programme, the website is: www.ilawales.com

In all cases we would stress that the final decision about whether you will be funded is based on the plans agreed between providers and ELWa and the status of the individual learners. If you are in any doubt as to whether your provision qualifies for funding, you must discuss it with ELWa. www.elwa.org.uk (fefunding@elwa.org.uk and for workbased wblenq@elwa.org.uk)

Information for ELWa

The following information may be useful when talking with ELWa. In discussions it may be worth asking about policies and priorities in relation to equality, community learning, widening participation, social inclusion and equality and diversity.

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 40 hours

with 4 units of 10 hours each, which makes it manageable by carers who may have very limited time in which to pursue their own interests.

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.

Providers that are not approved City & Guilds centres and/or ineligible for ELWa 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@city-and-guilds.co.uk

If you are an approved City & Guilds centre but are not eligible for ELWa 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 ELWA 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 other funding sources.

Centres should contact ELWa for information about any opportunities for such bids. www.elwa.org.uk

Local Councils and the Carers (Equal 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: <http://www.cardiff.gov.uk> or <http://www.swansea.gov.uk>), and contact social services. Some social services will have a carers' coordinator. Some 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, others may wish to play a part in approaching other funding sources.

Other funding sources

Awards for All (www.awardsforall.org.uk) is a Lottery grants programme aimed at local communities. They award grants of between £500 and £5000.

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 ELWa 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.

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

Direct Payments

Under the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004, social services are empowered to give Direct Payments to carers for education, training and leisure activities. Contact Carers Wales <http://www.carerswales.org> or your local social services.

Family Fund

Provides grants to families with severely disabled or seriously ill children.

www.familyfund.org.uk

JobCentre Plus

Provide New Deal funding, www.newdeal.gov.uk, (to get people back to work). Please see the Jobcentre Plus website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk and the section above regarding ESF bids.

Care Aware

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