



Department  
for Education

# March Update

NEWSLETTER ON POST 16 QUALIFICATIONS REFORM  
AT LEVEL 3 AND BELOW

## ACTION

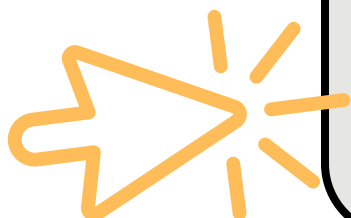
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**HOT TOPIC–** A hot topic  
at the events and  
webinars delivered  
throughout January and  
February has been  
qualifications within the  
Health route, and in  
particular qualifications  
delivering education and  
skills in health and social  
care.

In this month's  
newsletter we wanted to  
shine a light on the  
qualifications that will be  
available in Health and  
Social care, as well as  
provide links to helpful  
resources and further  
information to support  
your curriculum and  
pathway planning.

See our page on [Health  
and Science](#) to take a  
look at resources  
available.



### Pathways in Health and Social Care

The qualifications landscape in health and social care offers a variety of pathways to pursue careers in this vital sector, giving learners the flexibility to choose what works best for their ambitions and learning style—whether that's through T Levels, apprenticeships, or Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs).

Following the recent [Review of Qualifications Reform](#), there was a clear need for qualifications aligned with the occupational standards in the Care Services route. As a result, funding for 9 qualifications in health and social care will continue until new qualifications in adult social care can be introduced. These retained qualifications will remain funded in 2025–26 after which the department's expectation is that the combination of A levels, T Levels and reformed qualifications will meet learners needs. You can see the full list of retained qualifications, including in the Health and Science route (incl. social care), by clicking this [link](#).

Looking ahead, alongside the commitment to T Levels, the qualification reform process continues. We are expecting Awarding organisations to submit reformed level 3 qualifications in key areas, including Care Services, with these new qualifications ready for teaching from August 1, 2026.

Now is a great opportunity to consider delivering T Levels, or to grow your T Level provision, as they remain central to qualifications reform, forming the large technical qualification of choice at level 3 in the routes they are available.

These changes are designed to help learners succeed—whether they're heading into skilled work or progressing to higher education—by providing clear, high-quality pathways into this vital sector.

- [Level 3 qualification options in Health and Social Care](#)
- [Progression Pathways in Health and Social Care](#)
- [FAQs Health and Social Care](#)
- [2025 landscape Health and Social Care \(level 3 and above\)](#)
- [Health and Science pathways](#)