

Early signs and diagnosis

4 Why early diagnosis is important

Our learning material is designed to help you to work towards Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) units and will support you to work towards the Diploma in Health and Social Care at level 2 or 3. This document provides you with information about how the feature links to specific QCF units, and offers an activity which you could use to help demonstrate your learning. A general explanation about the QCF can be found at the end.

Linking to Health and Social Care Diplomas at Level 2 and 3

The learning in the feature <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/dementia/understanding-dementia/diagnosis/early-diagnosis.asp> will help you to understand and prepare for assessment in the following QCF units:

Health and Social Care Diploma Level 2	Health and Social Care Diploma Level 3
Dem 201	Dem 301

Activity to support your learning

The activity for <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/dementia/understanding-dementia/diagnosis/early-diagnosis.asp> can be used to provide evidence for the QCF unit DEM 301 2.1. To do this, copy the activity and this question into a Word document, then complete and keep a record of your answers in full there.

Can you show what you've learnt from reading the feature and doing this activity? Answer this question:

What might be the impact of finding out early (rather than later) that you or your loved one has a diagnosis of dementia?

General Explanation

The Qualification and Credit Framework is a flexible, 'mix and match' approach to gaining qualifications.

Every unit and qualification has both a credit value and a level. The credit value shows approximately how much time it takes to complete. The level shows how difficult the unit or qualification is. In adult social care there are vocational qualifications/units from level 1 through to level 7.

There are three sizes of qualification:

- Award (1-12 credits)
- Certificate (13-36 credits)
- Diploma (above 36 credits)

In order to obtain a Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care you will need 46 credits for a Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care you will need 58 credits.

At both level 2 and level 3 there are mandatory units and optional units; you can also choose to follow specific pathways:

- Generic qualification
- Dementia pathway
- Learning Disability Pathway

When you have selected a pathway there are specific units that you need to do. More information about QCF awards can be found at: <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk>

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