

Guide to qualifications for those working in Residential Childcare from 5th January 2015.

The new qualifications for those working in residential childcare from 5th January 2015 are:

- The Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England); and
- The Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare (England).

These qualifications will replace:

- The Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce with the children's social care pathway; and
- The Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services with the children and young people's residential management pathway.

Course handbooks are available to download from the websites of the Awarding Organisations below. You can also search for training providers to deliver the new qualifications.

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| • Cache | www.cache.org.uk | • NCFE | www.ncfe.org.uk (level 3 only) |
| • City & Guilds | www.cityandguilds.com | • OCR | www.OCR.org.uk |
| • Futurequals | www.futurequals.com | • Pearson | www.edexcel.com |
| • Highfield | www.highfieldabc.com | • Skillsfirst | www.skillsfirst.co.uk |
| • Lifetime | www.lifetimeawarding.co.uk | | |

Learners who are currently completing the Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce with the children's social care pathway and the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services with the children and young people's residential management pathway, should continue their qualification and do not need to start or switch to the new qualifications, unless they or their employer wishes them to do so.

Those who already hold what is considered by a registered person to be an equivalent qualification do not need to take these new qualifications. The term 'equivalent' allows for a judgement to be made about new starters that may have already completed a qualification under previous regulations or guidance from the NMS. The judgement of whether a qualification is 'equivalent' is to be made by the registered person. Further information about equivalent qualifications can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-homes-regulations-amendments-2014

Those starting work as a residential care worker or manager from 5 January 2015 without an equivalent qualification are expected to take the new qualifications.

Key dates	Which regulations are in force?	What qualifications do they say that care workers should hold or obtain?	What qualifications do they say that managers should hold or obtain?	Implications	Timescales
January 2015- March 2015	The Children's Homes and Looked After Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013	The Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce in the children's social care pathway or equivalent.	The Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services in the children and young people's residential management or equivalent.	<p>The qualifications named in these regulations will no longer be available for the children's homes workforce. The equivalent qualification should be taken by new staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (for care workers) • Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare (for managers) <p>*See note above about equivalent qualifications</p>	<p>Care workers have two years from commencing the role to complete the qualification.</p> <p>Managers have three years from commencing the role to complete the qualification.</p>
April 2015	<p>The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015</p> <p><i>We are currently consulting on these regulations and our aim is for them to be in force from 1 April 2015.</i></p>	The Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare or equivalent.	The Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare or equivalent.	<p>The qualifications named in these regulations are the new qualifications.</p> <p>*See note above about equivalent qualifications</p>	<p>Care workers have two years from commencing the role to complete the qualification.</p> <p>Managers have three years from commencing the role to complete the qualification.</p>