

## **City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Work**

### ***Background to the Certificate***

The landscape of mental health education and training for support staff has changed dramatically over the past decade or so. It is easy to forget that, until relatively recently, only limited development opportunities existed for many support staff and volunteers practising in the mental health field.

The Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Work was originally conceived as an introductory version of the Level 3 Certificate in Community Mental Health Care. It has been designed for people new to the mental health sector who are not yet ready to move on to Level 3 or who want to follow just Level 2. It forms the first step of a progression route onto vocational and vocationally related awards that has now emerged for front line support staff.

The Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Work has been mapped against the S/NVQ Level 2 in Care. In addition, City & Guilds have mapped the Level 2 Certificate against:

- Key skills at Level 1 and 2
- National Occupational Standards for Mental Health
- Induction and foundation requirements of TOPSS England
- Induction requirements of the Care Council for Wales/Cyngor Gofal Cymru
- Core Skills for Scotland.

### ***Structure of the Level 2 Certificate***

The Level 2 Certificate comprises of five units all of which must be completed to achieve the award. The five units are presented in a standard format and each unit has a number of learning outcomes to be achieved. The Level 2 Certificate is a VRQ (vocationally related qualification). It consists of 5 units:

Unit 1 Principles of mental health work

*This unit aims to introduce candidates to the basic principles of mental health work.*

Unit 2 The experience of mental distress

*The aim of this unit is to place the service user's experience at the Centre of mental health work and to introduce candidates to their role in understanding and meeting the needs of service users.*

### Unit 3 Effective communication

*This unit aims to develop the candidate's awareness of effective communication and the importance of maintaining accurate records.*

### Unit 4 The working environment

*This unit aims to develop the candidate's awareness of how to work in a healthy and safe way within the policies and procedures of the employing body.*

### Unit 5 Developing as a mental health worker

*The aim of this unit is for the candidate to identify their own development needs.*

We will be using The Mental Health Foundation and Pavilion produced learning programme, materials and assessment guidance to support the delivery of the Level 2 Certificate. These materials have been written to focus on work-based training by the line manager to support staff in achieving the Level 2 Certificate.

The programme uses a combination of group learning sessions with input from a trainer and independent learning activities that are closely linked to the assessment requirements of the award. The programme comprises an introductory training session plus a half-day/evening session for each of the five units.

The Certificate is assessed by work-based assessments for units 1 to 5 and a 24 item multiple choice question paper covering units 1 to 4.