

Dementia Training Standards Framework

What is the Dementia Training Standards Framework?

The Dementia Training Standards Framework (2026) is a national framework developed by Skills for Care in partnership with Skills for Health and commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care.

It provides a clear, consistent structure for dementia education and training across health and social care settings.

The framework reflects current language, evidence and best practice, and supports the development of high-quality dementia training, assessment of competence and the ongoing development of workforce capability.

What does the framework support?

Use of the Dementia Training Standards Framework supports organisations to:

- Standardise the interpretation of dementia education and learning
- Guide the focus and aims of dementia education and training delivery
- Support consistency and quality assurance for dementia education and learning
- Ensure dementia training is relevant, evidence-based and up to date
- Improve the overall quality and consistency of dementia education and training provision

Who is the framework for?

The framework is designed for anyone responsible for planning, delivering, commissioning or quality assuring dementia education and training, including:

- Adult social care providers and employers
- Registered managers and service leaders
- Learning and development practitioners
- Trainers, assessors and education providers
- Commissioners and workforce planners
- Awarding organisations and quality assurance bodies

It is relevant across health, social care and housing settings, recognising that dementia support is delivered by a wide range of roles, not only specialist services.

How is the framework structured?

The Dementia Training Standards Framework sets out learning outcomes across 14 key subject areas, covering the full dementia care pathway. These include:

- Dementia awareness
- Dementia identification, assessment and diagnosis
- Person-centred dementia care
- Communication, interaction and behaviour
- Health and wellbeing in dementia care
- Living well with dementia and promoting independence
- Families and carers as partners in care
- Equality, diversity and inclusion

- Law, ethics and safeguarding
- End of life dementia care
- Research and evidence-based practice
- Leadership in transforming dementia care

The framework is outcomes-focused and aligned with national policy, regulatory expectations and occupational standards.

Tiered approach to dementia training

The framework uses a tiered structure to recognise that different roles require different levels of knowledge and skill:

Tier 1 - Dementia Awareness

Applies to everyone working in health and social care. It sets out the essential awareness required to understand dementia, recognise its impact and provide safe, respectful and compassionate support.

Tier 2 - Dementia Skills and Knowledge

For staff who regularly work directly with people living with dementia. This tier focuses on applying person-centred approaches, effective communication, responding to behaviour, and supporting wellbeing.

Tier 3 - Leadership in Dementia Care

For supervisors, managers and leaders who have responsibility for shaping services, leading teams and embedding high-quality, evidence-informed dementia care within organisations. Not all roles will need to meet every outcome, but organisations should ensure that teams collectively cover the relevant tiers to deliver safe, effective dementia care.

Using the framework locally

The Dementia Training Standards Framework can be used to:

- Design and map dementia training programmes
- Review and quality assure existing training provision
- Support induction and ongoing workforce development
- Evidence compliance with CQC expectations around workforce capability
- Support commissioning and funding decisions for dementia education

Access the framework

You can download the full Dementia Training Standards Framework from Skills for Care:

[See the full framework here](#)