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## About the author

Malcolm Day is a registered nurse and a registered practice educator. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, a Fellow of the Institute for Learning and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Malcolm has previously held university lectureships in nursing, community care, and care management. Malcolm is co-author of *Supporting People in their Own Homes, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults*, and *Caring for the Older Person*, also published by Pavilion.

## About this training resource

The way that qualifications are organised and structured within the social care sector is changing. By the latter part of 2010, the current National Qualifications Framework (NQF) will be replaced by the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF).

The QCF is a new flexible way of recognising and rewarding skills and qualifications. It will present units and qualifications in a simpler way and it will lead to qualifications that are flexible and meet the skills and knowledge needs of the social care workforce.

According to Skills for Care (2009) every unit and qualification within the QCF will have a credit value and a level indicating how difficult it is.

Also, Skills for Care (2009) have indicated that there will be three sizes of qualifications within the QCF:

- awards (1 to 12 credits)
- certificates (13 to 36 credits)
- diplomas (37 credits or more).

In addition, Skills for Care (2009) have stated that each qualification will indicate:

- the level of the qualification, for example level 8 is the highest level
- the size of qualification, for example whether it is an award, certificate or diploma
- details outlining the content of the qualification.

Skills for Care have indicated that qualifications for dementia care will feature in the new QCF and are already planning the level, size and content of these new qualifications – based on the work they previously completed for the dementia care knowledge set. This training resource draws upon the previous work undertaken by Skills for Care to identify underpinning knowledge for the new dementia care qualifications that will appear within the new QCF. It will be of value to new workers entering the

social care sector, as well social care workers who are continually developing their knowledge within the field of dementia care.

Throughout this training resource, there are 😊 learning activities for you to complete, which introduce you to the key aspects that are going to be covered. You should complete these before you commence or continue your reading and discuss them with a colleague or your supervisor. At the end of each chapter there is a quiz to help you revise the knowledge that has been covered. The answers to the learning activities and the quizzes are provided in the **appendix**.

At the end of each chapter, there is also a continuing professional development (CPD) log 📝 for you to complete with your supervisor. This is particularly important if you intend to undertake the new dementia care qualifications as you can be given credit for any prior learning you have undertaken – based on the content, number of hours and level of study you have completed.

The CPD log will also assist your manager to keep a record of your training, which is a requirement of your social care inspectorate and the Care Quality Council.