



Therapeutic Pathway FAQs

What does it mean to be City and Guilds Assured?

The City and Guilds assurance process is a globally recognised quality benchmark of excellence in training and learning.

Each individual element of the Therapeutic Pathway has been evaluated against an in-depth quality assurance framework to ensure the programme meets the global quality standard set by City and Guilds and ILM.

You can learn more about the [Assured Benchmark Standards here >](#)

Is the Therapeutic Pathway a qualification?

No, the Therapeutic Pathway is not a qualification. However, the Assured status means that you will receive a digital certificate from City and Guilds to demonstrate that you have completed therapeutic foster care training that meets a high standard.

What is the difference between a formal qualification and a City and Guilds Assured certificate?

An Assured certificate indicates that our in-house training programme meets the high-quality standards of City and Guilds. It is exclusively designed to equip ISP foster parents with the specific and specialised skills and knowledge they need. This training is available only to ISP foster parents and staff.

In contrast, nationally recognised qualifications such as NVQs define the specific standards that must be studied and assessed to earn the qualification. These qualifications can be offered by various awarding bodies to a wide range of individuals.

A photograph of a man and a woman looking at a laptop screen together. The man is on the left, wearing a blue t-shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a teal t-shirt and glasses. They are both looking intently at the laptop. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

Has anything changed with the Therapeutic Pathway training?

All our training materials within the Therapeutic Pathway now meet the world-class quality benchmark standards as set out by City and Guilds.

And while the topics covered and the way in which we deliver them will remain the same, we have been required to make a few small changes.

Firstly, the current Therapeutic Pathway will now be broken down into two separate courses:

- **Stage 1:** Therapeutic Pathway – Main Grade consists of what was previously ‘Level 1’ and ‘Level 2’.
- **Stage 2:** Therapeutic Pathway – Senior Grade consists of what was previously ‘Level 3’.

The only additional change is that ‘Levels’ will now be referred to as ‘Stages’ in order to meet the City and Guilds requirements.

Why has the training been separated into two courses?

The training has been divided into two courses, aligning with our different foster parent grades.

Stage 1 encompasses all the modules necessary for Main Grade foster parents, while stage 2 includes the additional modules required for Senior Grade foster parents.

This separation into two courses allows foster parents to earn City and Guilds certification as both a 'Main Grade' and 'Senior Grade' ISP foster parent.

Why have you changed 'levels' to 'stages'?

As the Therapeutic Pathway is not a qualification, we are not allowed to use the term 'Level'. This is because most qualifications have a difficulty 'level' (for example, A levels are level 3) and so we have decided to change to 'stage' to avoid any confusion.

Will I receive a certificate for completing the pathway?

You will receive a City and Guilds certificate once you have completed each of the below stages:

- **Therapeutic Pathway - Main Grade (Stage 1)**
- **Therapeutic Pathway - Senior Grade (Stage 2)**

You will also receive an ISP certificate for each module you attend.

Will I receive a certificate from City and Guilds?

Yes, you will receive a certificate from City and Guilds, plus a digital badge that you can use across different platforms, such as your email signature and LinkedIn profile.

Will staff receive a certificate for completing the pathway?

Yes, everyone who completes the pathway will receive a certificate.

Will I need to re-do the modules I have already completed?

No, the course material remains the same and you will not be required to re-do any modules you have already completed in order to complete the course and receive your certificate.



Are secondary foster parents required to complete the Therapeutic Pathway?

We recognise that some secondary foster parents may face challenges attending in-person training sessions due to work or other commitments.

To provide flexibility and ensure all our foster families meet the required training standards, we have developed three training options specifically tailored for secondary foster parents.

1. **Foundation Modules (Highly Recommended):** You can complete the five mandatory foundation modules of stage 1, and upon successful completion, you will receive an ISP certificate.
2. **E-Learning course:** Alternatively, you can opt for a convenient self-directed e-learning course through Learnative. This course offers a high-level introduction to the key topics covered within the mandatory modules, allowing you to access essential training at your own pace and convenience. You'll receive an ISP certificate once completed.
3. **Therapeutic Pathway:** As a secondary foster parent, you're also welcome to complete the full Therapeutic Pathway just like our primary foster parents, attending both the workshops and reflective practice sessions. You'll receive a City and Guilds certificate for each stage you complete.

Will secondary foster parents receive a certificate for completing training?

If you decide to complete the Therapeutic Pathway, including both the workshops and reflective practice sessions, you can receive a City and Guilds certificate for each stage. However, you will not receive this certificate for completing the E-Learning course or Foundation Modules. Instead, you will receive an ISP certificate via Learnative.



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