



National Association of Link Workers

NALW Course Endorsement and Accreditation Policy

Introduction

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear and consistent framework for evaluating and recognising educational courses and programs that are relevant and aligned with the National Association of Link Workers' standards and best practices. The policy aims to:

- Establish a set of criteria and processes for endorsing and accrediting courses that meet the NALW's expectations of quality, rigour, and industry relevance.
- Enhance the credibility and reputation of the NALW as a trusted authority in maintaining and promoting high educational standards within its domain.
- Inspire confidence and satisfaction among training providers, learners, employers, and other stakeholders by ensuring a fair and objective evaluation process that fosters continuous improvement and innovation in education.
- Support learners in acquiring the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the profession and contribute to advancing the field.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all educational courses and programs that are offered by training providers within or outside the UK and that are related to the NALW's domain of practice. The policy covers the following types of courses and programs:

- Endorsed courses: These are short courses, workshops, seminars, conferences or other learning activities that are endorsed by the NALW as relevant and beneficial for its members and the wider community. Endorsed courses are not accredited by the NALW but we recognise their CPD value.
- Accredited courses: These are courses or programs that are accredited by the NALW as meeting its standards of quality and rigour and that lead to our qualification or certification. Accredited courses may be part of a higher education degree or diploma, a vocational or professional qualification, or a continuing professional development program.

Course endorsement and Accreditation Criteria

The course must meet the following criteria to be accredited by the National Association of Link Workers:

- **Alignment:** The course must align with the education and professional standards and scope of practice of the National Association of Link Workers. The course must also reflect the current and future needs of social prescribing link workers and employers.
- **Input:** The course must involve input from social prescribing link workers and employers in the course development process. This ensures that the course is relevant and addresses real-world challenges.
- **Feedback:** The course must seek feedback from social prescribing link workers and employers on the course outcomes and effectiveness. This helps to improve the course quality and impact.
- **Learning Outcomes:** The course must have clearly defined and measurable learning outcomes that match the course content and assessment methods.
- **Delivery and Assessment Methods:** The course must use effective and inclusive delivery and assessment methods that cater to diverse learning styles and embed learning.
- **Quality Assurance:** The course must have processes and mechanisms to ensure the ongoing quality and improvement of the course.
- **Course Team:** The course must have suitable and qualified instructors who have relevant experience and expertise on the topic.
- **Insurance and Compliance:** Provide proof of adequate professional indemnity and public liability insurance coverage, as well as policies on health and safety, equality, diversity and inclusion, complaints, and confidentiality.

Course Endorsement and Accreditation Process

The course accreditation process consists of the following steps:

- **Initial Self-Assessment:** Reflect on the endorsement and accreditation criteria and ensure that you meet ALL and can provide the required evidence.
- **Formal Application:** request the application form for your desired course route and pay the application fee. The application fee is non-refundable.
- **NALW Assessment:** Your application will be reviewed by our assessors who will check if your course meets the endorsement or accreditation criteria and that there are no reputational risks to NALW. They may also conduct an online interview with you if required. The assessment process may take up to three weeks.
- **Approval and Listing:** If your application is approved, you will receive a confirmation email and a certificate of accreditation. Your course will be listed

on the NALW website, and you can use the NALW-accredited or endorsed logo on your course materials and marketing collateral. The endorsement or accreditation period is valid for one year.

- **Re-endorsement or re-accreditation:** To maintain your endorsement or accreditation, you must submit an annual report and any other requested information, as well as a re-endorsement or reaccreditation fee.
- **Additional Information:** You may be asked to provide more information if needed. You must supply them within the deadline. You are responsible for showing how you meet the endorsement and accreditation criteria and providing supporting materials.

Related Policies

- NALW Endorsement policy
- NALW Partnership & Sponsorship Policy
- NALW Conflict of interest policy
- NALW Confidentiality policy
- NALW Supplier code of practice