

# A Complete Pathway for Senior Leaders

From Award to Chartered Manager — qualifications shaped for social care leadership

The Neil Thompson Academy | [www.NeilThompson.info](http://www.NeilThompson.info)

Senior leaders in social care and social work face a leadership challenge that generic management programmes rarely address. You are navigating the tension between professional values and managerial demands, maintaining ethical leadership under resource pressure, championing inclusive practice and driving cultural change — often simultaneously.

The Neil Thompson Academy offers a complete range of CMI qualifications developed specifically for this context. Whether you are seeking a focused award to recognise a particular area of expertise, a full diploma for comprehensive professional accreditation, or the prestigious status of Chartered Manager, we have a pathway for you.

## The full range of qualifications

Qualification	Level and credits	Ideal for
<b>Award</b>	Level 5 or 7   7 credits	Leaders seeking focused recognition of expertise in a specific leadership area; a powerful CPD marker or a first step on the CMI ladder
<b>Certificate</b>	Level 5 or 7   13 credits	Leaders wanting broader formal recognition without the full diploma commitment; an excellent standalone qualification or stepping stone
<b>Diploma</b> Level 5	Level 5   37 credits	Practising managers and team leaders in adult social care, children's social care or people management who want comprehensive, accredited leadership development
<b>Diploma</b> Level 7	Level 7   37 credits	Senior leaders and experienced managers seeking Master's-level recognition in strategic leadership in social care or strategic people management
<b>Chartered Manager</b>	Via Level 7 Diploma	Senior leaders who want the highest level of professional recognition from the CMI, demonstrating sustained excellence in management practice

## Level 5 Diploma pathways

The Level 5 Diploma is equivalent to the early stages of an undergraduate degree and is available in three specialist programmes:

<b>Adult Social Care Leadership</b> For managers in adult social care settings who want leadership development grounded in the realities of the sector	<b>Children's Social Care Leadership</b> For managers in children's services, including children's social work, safeguarding and family support	<b>People Management</b> For HR professionals and people managers in social care and related sectors
---	--	---

## Level 7 Diploma pathways

The Level 7 Diploma is the gateway to Chartered Manager status. Pitched at Master's level, it is available in two specialist programmes:

### Strategic Leadership in Social Care

For senior leaders who want to think and operate at a strategic level, shaping organisational culture, managing complexity and leading change in social care settings.

### Strategic People Management

For senior HR leaders and directors of people functions who want strategic-level recognition and the tools to lead people management at an organisational level.

## Chartered Manager status

Completing the Level 7 Diploma opens the door to applying for Chartered Manager status — the highest level of professional recognition awarded by the CMI.

Chartered Manager status signals to employers, colleagues and service users that you are operating at the forefront of management and leadership practice. It is a marker of sustained excellence, professional commitment and the highest standards of ethical leadership.

For senior leaders in social care, Chartered Manager status carries additional significance — it demonstrates that your management excellence is matched by your understanding of the values, complexities and professional context of the sector.

## Why study with the Neil Thompson Academy?

Generic CMI provision covers management competencies well. What it does not do is engage seriously with the specific realities of leading in social care — the ethical dilemmas, the tensions between relationship-based practice and managerialism, the demands of anti-oppressive leadership, the challenge of sustaining professional values under financial pressure.

Our programmes address these realities directly. Every study guide, case study and assignment prompt is developed with the social care context in mind, drawing on Neil Thompson's 45+ years of experience in the field, professorships at five UK universities and a body of published work spanning more than 50 books.

### What our approach offers

- ✓ Specialist content developed for social care — not adapted from generic materials
- ✓ No attendance requirement — self-directed study at your own pace
- ✓ No fixed deadlines — you choose your timescale
- ✓ Practice-based assignments that connect directly to your work
- ✓ Expert academic support throughout
- ✓ A specialist Equality, Diversity and Inclusion pathway
- ✓ Multiple attempts permitted — no pressure to pass first time
- ✓ Credits that accumulate — begin with an Award, progress to a full Diploma

## Three pathways to your qualification

Whatever your preferred approach to learning, we can accommodate it:

### 1 Direct Registration

Register for your units directly and begin your studies with full access to materials and tutorial support

### 2 Course Bundles First

Complete an Avenue Learning Centre bundle (three courses for the price of two), then progress to formal registration

### 3 Workshop First

Attend an approved workshop for a structured grounding in the subject, then progress to formal registration

Whether you are considering an Award as a first step, a full Level 7 Diploma or Chartered Manager status as a longer-term goal, we would welcome the conversation. Contact us to find out how our qualifications can fit your professional ambitions and your organisation's development priorities.

[www.NeilThompson.info](http://www.NeilThompson.info)

