



## Introducing the Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support

### Skills for Health and NHS Education for Scotland warmly welcome the first cohorts of Modern Apprentices in Healthcare Support

Every year over 25,000 people start a Modern Apprenticeship in Scotland, Working, learning and earning at the same time. Skills for Health is delighted to announce that learners are now registering for the Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support which was launched in April 2015. Designed in partnership with employers and NHS Education for Scotland, the Modern Apprenticeship is suitable for clinical or non-clinical staff and is available at SCQF levels 6 and 7.

'Healthcare Support worker' is a broad term used for NHSScotland staff who are not in registered healthcare roles (eg doctor, nurse, physiotherapist, radiographer etc). As well as working in clinical roles, supporting healthcare workers to care for and support patients and service users, Healthcare Support workers carry out a wide range of non-clinical activities such as engineering, administration, catering, finance, IT or portering.

#### New opportunities

*"NHSScotland is the largest employer in Scotland and this framework widens the range of MA roles available to new staff in many NHS Scotland Boards. This is an exciting opportunity for young people interested in working in health to earn while they learn and develop a career in NHSScotland. Staff already working in NHSScotland who wish to undertake some vocational learning can also enrol into the MA in Healthcare Support."*

NHS Education for Scotland

The Modern Apprenticeship is based around the SVQ in Healthcare Support. This qualification contains three mandatory units which provide all staff with a common set of core values. These mandatory units cover communication, teamwork, IT, numeracy and problem solving skills. This means that irrespective of whether a healthcare support worker is entering a clinical or non-clinical role, he or she will have a similar understanding of what it means to work in the health sector and a shared set of basic skills. Find out more about the content of the SVQs on the [Skills for Health website](#).

#### Step-Up is the first provider to register learners on the Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support

*"In 2008, I established 'Step-Up' to become an SQA training centre for vocational qualifications. As an assessor and Internal Verifier, I had become fully aware of how transformational the achievement of an SVQ can be for young (and not so young), candidates.*

*I currently have two Modern Apprentices undertaking the Healthcare Support qualification at medical centres in the west of our region, with another 3 about to be signed up in the east. The geography of Dumfries and Galloway is my most difficult challenge.*

*Depending on the candidate, it will take between 18 months and 2 years to complete both level 2 and level 3 qualifications. My candidates learn on the job, I see them every 3 weeks, they can email me, text me or ask to see me at any time. It is a 1-1 training experience for them.*

*People have sometimes they been put off learning by their school experience. I have to re-engage them can be challenging at the beginning - but I usually win them round! In other courses I offer a large number of candidates have now completed their apprenticeships and even gone into further education.*

*I can attest that the Skills Development Scotland Modern Apprentice scheme is transforming the life chances of many of our young people and I am pleased to be offering the Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support*

Rosslyn Carrie, Step-Up





### Other providers are also accepting candidates

*“Minerva People are delighted to offer the Modern Apprenticeship in Healthcare Support for Non Clinical workers commencing in January 2016. Minerva has for many years supported staff in Medical Practices/Centres with Business and Administration qualifications. However, with job roles being more varied Minerva wished to ensure that we had the right qualifications to meet the job roles of today. This gives employers choice and ensures the correct training and support for staff whether someone is just starting their career, changing career direction or wishing to move forward in their profession.”*

Tricia Hunter, Minerva People

### A sustainable future

*“It’s so important to grow your own staff. The popularity of Modern Apprenticeships continues to rise because of the significant difference they make to young people’s lives. Skills for Health anticipates that the numbers of Modern Apprentices in Healthcare Support registrations will grow year on year. We look forward to awarding certificates to the successful apprentices.”*

John Rogers, Skills for Health

### Find out more

Further information about all the Modern Apprenticeships in Scotland is available [here](#)

