

AN APPRENTICESHIP IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN ENGLAND AND WALES

There are many different opportunities for young people to have a career in both health and social care via an apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are available between the ages of 16 and 25 (no age restriction in Wales)

In health the type of role you could start with as an apprentice is as a Health Care Support Assistant assisting other staff on a ward or in a community setting to care for patients. (Check out this role under www.nhscareers.nhs.uk under A-Z of Careers)

In Care you would probably start as a care assistant possibly in a residential home or in day care and you can not undertake personal care with patients until you are aged 18 due to the rules in the sector (There are not the same restrictions around your age in health.)

The Qualifications You Will Gain

Each health or social care employer may have different tasks that you would do and you would normally be employed by them and you would also be studying for your:

- NVQ in Health and Social Care (or in Health)
- Technical Certificate in Health and social Care (to provide you with the underpinning knowledge to do the job)
- 2 Key Skills in Application of Number and in Communication.

Entry Requirements

There are generally no laid down minimum entry or previous experience requirements for Apprenticeships/Foundation Modern Apprenticeship or Advanced Apprenticeships/Modern Apprenticeships. Any minimum entry requirements will be a guide for applicants.

Generally the types of skills which are looked for are:

- Motivation to succeed within the Sector/s
- Good interpersonal skills, especially respect for individual service users
- Good verbal and physical communication skills
- A suitable level of physical fitness may be necessary in order to perform some aspects of the job roles, for example, lifting and handling
- Willingness to undertake training and learning programmes and apply that learning in the workplace

There are 2 different levels of apprenticeship that you can take:

- The entry level 2 route of an Apprenticeship(A) in England and Foundation Modern Apprenticeship (FMA) in Wales
- and then you can progress onto a level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship (AA) in England and Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Wales where the opportunity arises.

The level 2 apprenticeship generally takes a minimum of 12 months and the level 3 about 24 months to complete.

Career Opportunities

Within the health and social care sector there is a wide range of opportunities for apprentices to progress. In some cases other entry requirements may be expected in addition to the A/FMA or AA/MA outcome. The following list is offered as a guide and is not all the roles that could be available:

- A/FMA – progression to AA/MA (for those As/FMAs who have the potential and where job opportunities are available)
- Progression to job roles within the sector. For example:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care assistant - Community care worker - Community support worker - Day care assistant - Day care officer - Family aid - Family Carer's Support Worker - Health care assistant - Health care support worker - Home care assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home care organiser - Midwifery support worker - Nursing assistant - Residential worker - Rehabilitation worker - Sensory impairment worker - Sheltered housing assistant - Social care officer - Team support worker
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- AA/MA – progression to NVQ levels 4 or 5 and Higher Education, including, where appropriate, opportunities for progression to Foundation Degrees. The Skills for Health Foundation Degree Framework can be found at <http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/qualifications-4.php>

For more information on Health and Social Care Apprenticeships

Please look at the Skills for Health Web site www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Click on 'Qualifications and Awards' then click on 'Apprenticeships' and this brings up the Health and Social Care information

Then click on 'England and Wales' for more information on this.

For More Information on Apprenticeships in Social Care

www.skillsforcare.org.uk

For More Useful Information on Apprenticeships in General

There is a dedicated website on apprenticeships run by the Learning and Skills Council for England and Wales www.apprenticeships.org.uk

On this website all your questions are answered on Apprenticeships and if you click into 'What next' this takes you into a page where you can register your interest.

There are other apprenticeship opportunities in health. Examples include administration, estates, customer care, dental or pharmacy areas.

For More Information on a Career in Health:

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk Help line: 0845 6060655

Also look up a brand new web site aimed at young people aged 14-19 looking into a career in health www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk which you can register with and get an NHS Welcome pack!

Or call the **Health Learning and Skills Adviceline** on 08000 150 850

For More Information on a Career in Care or Social Care www.socialcarecareers.co.uk

For More Information on Advice and Careers Guidance and where you can do an apprenticeship

England - For age 19 and under – **Connexions** (contact your local advisor)

Or the national number 08000 150 600 or www.connexions-direct.com

For over age 19 – www.nextsteps.org.uk

Or call the Health Learning and Skills Adviceline on 08000 150 850

Wales - For all ages **Careers Wales** www.careerswales.com for your local careers advisor

Or **NHS Wales Careers** anne.duggan@niah.wales.nhs.uk or call Anne Duggan who is the Recruitment and Careers Officer for Wales on 01443 233472

Apprenticeship placements and Opportunities do vary depending on where you live and what your local employers require. You may find out about places via an employer direct.

How can I gain experience working in health and social care?

You may want to do some volunteering in a care or health related charity to gain some experience and see what working in the sector is about and a good way to do this is by volunteering. For more detailed information:

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/IWantToVolunteer/Volunteering+in+the+UK/volunteeringinhealthandsocialcare.htmHow>

Different types of apprenticeships in the health sector

Dental Nursing

There is also a Dental Nursing Apprenticeship and this involves a Dental Nursing NVQ at Level 3 leading to the register of dental nurses as well as the Key Skills. This role involves assisting the dentist with chair side support and assisting with patient appointments

Employment and placements are via Dental Practices, Dental Access Centres and hospitals

For more information – look at NHS Careers

(<http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/details/Default.aspx?Id=141>)

More information can be found on the National Examination Board of Dental Nurses

(www.nebdn.org.uk)

Pharmacy

There are some apprenticeships available as well to train as a Pharmacy Technician, Dispenser or Assistant. Employment can be via community and GP pharmacies, large pharmaceutical retail chains (eg Boots, Lloyds etc), hospital pharmacies and the pharmaceutical industry. They provide a valuable support for fully qualified Pharmacists and assist in the preparation of medications and have public contact with customers and patients selling medications

More information can be found on www.skillsforhealth.org.uk and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (www.rpsgb.org.uk)

Opportunities do vary depending on where you live and what your local employers require.

Working as an apprentice in either Health or Social Care can be a very rewarding experience and lead to a long varied career!