

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7194/7	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care (720 GLH)

Overview***The health and social care sector***

The health and social care sector comprises two sub sectors; health care and social care. Health care encompasses all hospital activities, medical nursing homes and GP services, for example. The social care sector includes residential nursing care, residential nursing facilities, residential care facilities, domiciliary care and social work. Students are able to progress into work in the sector through degree programmes in nursing, midwifery, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy, for example. There are more than 300 distinct career paths in this sector.

The sector is a major employer, employing almost four million people across the UK.

Who is this qualification for?

The qualification accounts for two-thirds of a two-year full-time study programme and is aimed at students intending to go on to further study, probably in this sector. It is intended as an Applied General qualification, and is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It supports access to a range of higher education courses in health and social care disciplines, if taken alongside further level 3 qualifications, for example Biology or Psychology A levels.

No prior study of the sector is needed, but students should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education to ensure it supports progression towards higher study. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved, in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for those interested in working in the sector.

Everyone taking this qualification will study six mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
- Promoting Public Health.

Students are able to select two option units that support their progression to specialised degree programmes, and which cover the biological, and sociological topics relevant to the different parts of the sector.

Students are able to choose to take work experience as part of the course, to develop a better understanding of the demands of working in the sector, and to demonstrate their commitment and interest in the sector when applying for further study.

Option units allow students to develop their interest in different parts of the sector, and include:

- Sociological perspectives
- Psychological perspective
- Additional needs
- Physiological disorders
- Nutrition.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?

Because the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care is generally taken alongside other qualifications, as part of a two-year programme of learning, students will be able to choose a wide range of degree programmes to progress to.

In addition to the sector-specific content, the requirements of the qualification will mean students develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers.

For example, the study of contemporary issues in health and social care requires students to research and provide additional evidence to support an argument set out in technical journals. This activity requires the application of the higher-order skills of secondary research, evaluation and analysis.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. For example, if taken alongside:

- A Level Biology, it could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Nursing or Midwifery
- A level Sociology, it could lead to a BA (Hons) in Social Work
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Sport, it could lead to BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy
- A level Psychology, it could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Psychology.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific HE providers.

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at which level?

This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment via higher education. It also supports students who choose to progress directly to employment as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give successful students an advantage when applying for a range of entry level roles, industry training programmes and Higher Apprenticeships.

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should the student choose this one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care** is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels and is for students intending to study further towards a degree, probably in the health and social care sector, alongside a further qualification related to their chosen field.

The suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Health and Social Care** is the smallest qualification in the suite of BTEC Nationals in Health and Social Care, it is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level. It is for students interested in learning about the sector, with a view to progressing to wide range of HE courses.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care** is equivalent in size to one A Level. It is for students interested in learning about the health and social care sector alongside other fields of study, probably with a view to progressing to a wide range of HE courses, not necessarily in the health or social care sector.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Health and Social Care** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels and is for students looking for a one-year course, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, or alternatively for study alongside another Foundation Diploma as part of a two-year programme.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care** is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and is for those students who know they want to progress to health or care degrees in higher education, before entering employment.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health Care** is equivalent in size to 2 A levels and is for students wanting to progress directly into work in the health care sector, on achieving the qualification. Its size means there is time in a study programme to improve English and maths qualifications, if necessary, or to take an additional level 3 qualification to support progression.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Social Care** is equivalent in size to 2 A levels and is for students wanting to progress directly into work in the social care sector, on achieving the qualification. Its size means there is time in a study programme to improve English and maths qualifications, if necessary, or to take an additional level 3 qualification to support progression.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations

Higher education

University of Sheffield
The University of Manchester
University of Exeter
University of East Anglia
University of Huddersfield
University of Chichester
Kingston University
Southampton Solent University
University College Birmingham
University of the West of England

Professional and trade bodies

The British Association of Social Workers
Norfolk Independent Care Association

Employers

Sirona Care and Health

North Bristol NHS Trust

Graham Care Group

Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust

Independence Matters