



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/1193/9	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Certificate in Adult Care

What is the adult care sector?

'Social care' is the phrase given to a wide range of care and support services for people with assessed need. Social care services are administered through local authorities which work with voluntary, private and independent social care organisations. Councils may also provide services themselves or commission others to do so.

People who use these services are supported in a variety of settings including their own homes, supported accommodation, day care provision and residential accommodation. The sector is expected to grow steadily in terms of the number of employees. It is predicted to require a minimum of 2 million workers by 2025, offering apprentices great potential for a career in a growing sector.

There were 1.75 million paid jobs in adult social care in England in 2009: of these, 1.61 million were directly employed at a place of work and 140,000 were employed by agencies or were bank and pool workers, volunteers, students or self-employed.

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Certificate in Adult Care is 240 guided learning hours. This qualification is for you if you want to progress into a career in adult care. It is designed for post-16 students and can be taken as part of a wider study programme. It is an ideal qualification if you are intending to gain the skills and knowledge required to progress directly to employment within an adult care setting as an adult care worker, and from there to complete further training in order to progress in your career.

What does the qualification cover?

This qualification has been developed based on the new Adult Care Worker Apprenticeship standard. This standard was developed by employers known as 'Trailblazers'. This means that the qualification will enable you to develop the skills and behaviours that will give you the best opportunity to be successful when applying for work.

All the content of the qualification is mandatory and relates directly to the skills, knowledge and behaviours expected by employers in the adult care sector. The areas you will cover include:

- principles and practices of working in adult care settings
- communicating and handling information in adult care settings
- contributing to health, safety and safeguarding in adult care settings
- developing professional practice skills for work in adult care settings.

You will also cover broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will help you to progress in the care sector.

In addition, you will learn about the personal attributes and behaviours expected of all adult care workers when carrying out their roles:

- care
- compassion
- courage
- communication
- competence
- commitment.

In order to meet the requirements of this qualification, you must undertake a supervised adult care work placement of a minimum of 200 hours in one adult care setting. It is recommended that, if possible, all placement settings should have been rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The following settings would meet the requirements of the qualification:

- residential care homes
- domiciliary care
- giving care to users of services with learning disabilities.

What could this qualification lead to?

Achieving this qualification will give you an advantage when applying for a job in the adult care sector. The types of role you will be ready for are:

- adult care worker
- personal assistant (a similar role to that of adult care worker but working directly for one individual, usually within their own home).

The qualification gives you a sound basis to progress to employment. Once in work, the learning and care work experience you have completed during your studies will be a strong foundation for you to continue to gain in experience. You will be able to complete the Care Certificate with your employer and, with suitable mentoring as you gain experience, prepare to progress to a Level 3 Apprenticeship Programme in Adult Care.

What other subjects go well with adult care?

This course builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you developed in your GCSEs and other qualifications taken at Key Stage 4. When studied as part of a full study programme, it is typically taken alongside maths and/or English. You could also take it together with complementary qualifications, such as the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Awareness of Dementia or the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care. This course is different from studying GCSEs, as, for example, by taking part in different types

of work experience activities, it gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge, skills and the techniques you learn in practical ways, such as communication skills and contributing to health, safety and safeguarding.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by the following employers:

- Hertfordshire County Council
- CareTech
- Woodford Homecare Support Services
- Premier Care
- Woodmarket House

Further information

Further information about the qualification can also be accessed at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-technicals/adult-care.html>