

Statement of Purpose

601/0170/2 - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma in Health and Social Care

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is intended as a Substantial Vocational Qualification at Level 2, and is aimed at students working at that level who wish to progress to a career within health and social care, either directly in an entry-level role or apprenticeship, or via the stepping stone of further Technical Level qualifications. It represents 480 guided learning hours.

What does this qualification cover?

All the content of the qualification, mandatory and optional, relates directly to the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to work in the health and social care sector.

Students will gain essential knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for employment within the sector, developing a solid foundation by studying and developing skills in the following areas:

- human lifespan development
- health and social care values
- effective communication
- healthy living

In addition to the above areas, all students will cover the following compulsory areas, which are more synoptic in nature and further develop students' knowledge, understanding and skills in a holistic way:

- Research project – learners are required to plan, undertake and review a research project, drawing on their knowledge of health and social care and applying their skills.
- Equality and diversity – which develops students' awareness of equality and diversity, which can be applied to their future work with service users in the sector
- Individual rights – which develops students' understanding and skill in recognising and addressing individual rights when working with service users in health and social care.

Students will then choose four to six optional specialist units totalling 240 GLH (from a choice of 16)) to suit their progression needs and interests. For example, students wanting to prepare for a career relating to:

- health could take units such as 'Human Body Systems and Care of Disorders', 'An Introduction to Basic First Aid' and 'Infection Control in Health and Social Care'
- social care could take 'Creative and Therapeutic Activities in Health and Social Care', 'Food Safety in Health and Social Care' and 'Introduction to Dementia'
- working with children could take 'Child Development and Observation'.

Students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding in a practical context and gain relevant work experience, which will improve their employability within the sector and inform their career choices. Students can undertake their placement (a minimum of 60 hours) in either a health or social care setting. Alternatively, students could undertake voluntary work within their local community within a health and social care organisation.

What could this qualification lead to?

Achievement of this qualification at level 2 could lead to employment within the health and social care sector. Potential job roles students that achieve the Diploma could progress to include:

- **Care worker** – duties can include: assisting with eating/mobility/washing/dressing, providing interesting activities for the service user to do, monitoring service users' health e.g. taking temperatures and pulse rate, helping service users to live as independently as possible. They can work in a residential care home, domiciliary care, or out in the community. Further compulsory training is given in post (for example in the Common Induction Standards, food hygiene, health and safety, and manual handling), and may involve working towards an additional qualification as part of that role.
- **Personal assistants**, or PAs as they're often referred to, do the same job as a care worker but they only work directly with one individual who needs support and/or care services, usually within their own home.
- **Community, support and outreach work** - duties can include providing support and guidance in various ways, including mentoring, teaching people who use care and support services every day skills (such as how to cook a meal safely or make a cup of tea), organising activities with people who need care and support (such as sport or shopping trips) or simply being with individuals in their home, helping them to cope with day to day living. Usually undertaken within the local community or within individuals' own homes. Further compulsory training is given in post (for example in the Common Induction Standards, food hygiene, health and safety, and manual handling), and may involve working towards an additional qualification as part of that role like the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults).
- **Activities worker or co-ordinator** – the role of these workers is to create, and oversee activities for people who need care and support services. This could be in a residential care home, a community care setting or in an individual's home. The activities stimulate new interests and skills, and are designed specifically to meet individual's needs. These workers promote social activities within, and outside their care setting. Grades A – C in GCSE Maths and English are also usually required. Students should undertake the 'Creative and Therapeutic Activities in Health and Social Care' unit if this is their intended progression route.

Apprenticeships include the Health and Social Care Advanced Apprenticeship, which covers a wide range of job roles on two pathways: the adult social care pathway and the health care pathway. This could mean working in the NHS, the private sector, local authorities or in the voluntary sectors. Other apprenticeships available in this sector include Dental Nursing and Healthcare Services Support.

Alternatively students could progress to a related Level 3 Technical Level qualification, as a stepping stone to employment. For example students could progress to a competency-based qualification, such as the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults) for England (QCF) or Northern Ireland and Wales (QCF).

This qualification is part of a larger suite of BTEC Health and Social Care qualifications

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma is 480 GLH and broadly equivalent to four GCSEs. The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate, at 360 GLH, is also available.

Students taking this qualification are likely to be focusing exclusively on this as their main programme of study.

The Diploma provides an opportunity to specialise in a particular area of health and social care, for example either health or social care. It is ideal for those students committed to eventually working in the sector and who have a clear idea of the area(s) on which they want to focus.

Students who wish to prepare for employment in the sector but who have yet to decide on their area of specialism ahead of further study at level 3 are more likely to choose the Extended Certificate, which affords greater breadth.

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award and Certificate have been designed for 14-16 year olds and are intended for delivery within a broad curriculum offer. These qualifications are not intended for post-16 students.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by the following employers and professional bodies:

- The Royal College of Midwives
- Alexandra Centre
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Graham Care Group
- Independence Matters
- Norwich & Central Norfolk Mind
- North Devon Link (Mental Health) Service

Further information

Further information on the qualification can be accessed at <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/health-and-social-care-2012-nqf.html>.