

Statement of Purpose

500/9316/2 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF)

The health and social care sector is a major employer of almost 4 million people in the UK, many of which are highly skilled. Almost 1.7 million job openings are expected over the period to 2020. It also makes a vital contribution to all other aspects of the economy and society by creating a healthy and productive workforce and by caring for the ageing and the vulnerable. Services provided by the sector will touch every individual and family in the UK.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF) (180 GLH) is part of a larger suite of BTEC National qualifications in health and social care, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the health and social care sector at the appropriate level. This can follow either directly after achieving the qualification, or via the stepping stone of Higher Education (HE) in university or college. By studying a BTEC National, learners develop knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, including essential employability skills, and apply them in real work contexts. Learners can operate at a standard that can reasonably be expected of an 18 year old in full-time education.

Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF) (180 GLH) is a vocational qualification, equivalent in size to an AS level, which is designed to be taken alongside one or more substantial qualifications within a 16–19 study programme. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme by developing a primary common core of knowledge in the sector through mandatory content. This common core covers the content, such as effective communication in health and social care, which is regarded as most important by employers. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in a health and social care-related field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as A-levels in biology, chemistry, psychology, sociology, English language or alongside a BTEC National in Children's Play, Learning and Development. It is also appropriate for those aged 16 who are ready to start an element of level 3 vocational study, while completing aspects of their level 2 programme.

The qualification was designed in collaboration with industry, so has the specific support of the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Skills for Health. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF) (180 GLH) supports entry to a variety of HE courses in this sector and beyond, when taken in conjunction with other qualifications. This is confirmed by the specific support of a range of universities. In addition, the qualification carries UCAS points – see details published on the Pearson website here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/results/Pages/BTEC-equivalence.aspx>