

Statement of Purpose

500/9317/4 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma 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 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) (360 GLH) is part of a larger suite of health and social care qualifications, 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.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) (360 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to an A level, which has been designed to occupy one third of the curriculum within a broader programme of study, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications. Its main purpose is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills, including communication skills in health and social care, equality and diversity, health, safety and security in health and social care, required by the sector. It provides a basis for progression into a broad range of roles within the sector when supported by relevant qualifications at level 2, such as GCSE English and mathematics, and/or at level 3, such as A-levels in biology, chemistry, psychology, sociology, English language or alongside another BTEC National, for example in Applied Science. Learners have some opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, including:

- human lifespan development
- anatomy and physiology
- sociological perspectives
- psychological perspectives
- public health
- caring for children and young people.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Skills for Health. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector has also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care. This means it is a highly respected route for those who wish to move into employment in the sector, either directly or following further study.

A significant proportion of recruitment in this sector is at graduate level. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector, when taken alongside other qualifications appropriate for the desired course of study. UCAS has reviewed the qualification to assess its value for access to higher education, and has allocated UCAS points. See details published on the Pearson website here:

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

In addition, a number of universities have individually confirmed that this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.