

Statement of Purpose

500/9465/8 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 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 Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) (720 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.

Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma (720 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to two A levels, which has been designed to occupy two-thirds of a full-time curriculum, enabling learners to develop a significant common core of knowledge, including communication skills, equality and diversity, health, safety and security, human lifespan development, anatomy and physiology, sociological and psychological perspectives. Learners are also required to study personal and professional development, which requires a minimum of 100 hours in placement within health and social care settings. This qualification provides an extensive opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, such as:

- working in the social care/health sector
- values and planning in social care
- caring for children and young people
- promoting health education
- infection prevention and control.

Learners could choose to specialise in a pathway, for example social care, health studies or health sciences, which have additional mandatory pathway-specific units. For example:

- in the social care pathway, learners are required to study values and planning in social care
- in the health studies pathway, learners need to know and understand physiological disorders
- in the health sciences pathway, learners are required to study science for health.

The Diploma allows time in the curriculum to study other qualifications alongside it, for example an A-level in biology or psychology, first aid qualification. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) can be studied part time by learners in schools, colleges and other training provider organisations. Its size makes it appropriate as the core component of a Technical Baccalaureate programme, allowing time in the curriculum for the study and completion of the other mandatory components.

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 Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF). 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 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 and beyond 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 Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF) fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.