



## Careers information sheet

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### Society Health and Development

There are many different careers in Health and Social Care. Many have direct involvement with patients but there are other jobs behind the scenes to support practitioners.

There are Healthcare opportunities at all skill levels. Most healthcare workers are employed by the National Health Service but other employers include the Armed Forces, the Prison Service, charities, and the private sector.

There are many different careers within the Allied Health Professions (AHP). These include Chiropodists, Dietitians, Occupational Therapists, Orthoptists, Paramedics, Physiotherapists, Psychotherapists, Radiographers and Speech and Language Therapists.

Healthcare professionals need a genuine concern for the well-being of their patients. Strong communication and team working skills, IT skills, attention to detail and initiative are all important.

Social and community care involves supporting families, young people, the elderly, homeless people or people with disabilities or mental health difficulties. Many social care staff work in peoples' homes (domiciliary care), or in residential settings. Listening and relating to people without being judgemental are important skills.

Voluntary work is a common entry route for social care. Although you may not need formal qualifications when you start, there you will be required to have appropriate qualifications. There is a recognised pathway of training opportunities. Some social care workers train to become social workers, with responsibility for assessing and planning the levels of support people need. (Source: jobs4u/NHS Careers/Carepoint)

You can get your qualifications by taking vocational courses or studying while in employment as well as by the more traditional academic route. The important thing is to choose a route that suits you. Some of the health professions have supported training places for staff already working in the service.

#### **Additional sources of information**

The Sector Skills Council for Health is Skills for Health.

NHS careers has information about careers in the NHS, entry requirements and training.

The Health Professions Council sets standards of professional training, performance and conduct for thirteen different professions – including occupational therapy, radiography and biomedical sciences.  
<http://www.hpc-uk.org>

The British Medical Association represents doctors.  
<http://www.bma.org.uk>

Skills for Care and Development is the Sector Skills Council for social care, children and young people. It has two parts:

- Skills for Care (Topss England until 2005) is concerned specifically with adult social care.  
<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk>
- Children's services are covered by the Children's Workforce Development Council.  
<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk>

The Department of Health website  
<http://www.socialworkandcare.co.uk>

The British Association of Social Workers represents Social Workers.  
[http:// www.basw.co.uk](http://www.basw.co.uk)

The General Social Care Council registers Social Care Workers.  
[http:// www.gsccl.org.uk](http://www.gsccl.org.uk)

Carepoint is the South East Care Portal and has information on training courses.  
[http:// www.carepoint.org.uk](http://www.carepoint.org.uk)

### **What else should I be doing?**

There's a lot you can do to help your career in Health and Social Care outside formal learning:

- attend talks, demonstrations and open days
- work shadow a practitioner
- take part in Aimhigher activities, such as summer schools and taster days
- find part time work/holiday jobs/work experience which involve helping others
- become a volunteer in a healthcare or care setting working with people of different ages
- improve your teamwork and personal (key) skills – especially communication
- develop your problem solving and thinking skills
- build up a portfolio of evidence about your experience, especially if you are a mature entrant
- become a Mentor
- become a qualified First Aider

- read journals such as the Lancet [www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com)
- watch TV documentaries on health and social issues