

Thinking Ahead?

Care work/Health Care Assistants

Produced by
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Information and Guidance Team
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Learner Services

What does a Care Worker/Health Care Assistant do?

The main role of a **Care Worker** is to provide support to a person in need of **care**, improving their lives by attending to their specific needs, and assisting them with their daily tasks. **Care Workers** may find themselves working with children, the elderly, and people with disabilities or learning difficulties.

Health Care Assistants duties are similar to Care Workers but they mainly work under the supervision of medical practitioners.

Where do they work?

You'll be helping people in their own homes or in day centres, residential or nursing homes. You could be working in a care home, out in your local community, in a hospital or from someone's home (providing care from someone's home is called domiciliary care). It all depends on what job you want to do.

Health Care Assistants mainly work in hospitals or doctors surgeries.

What skills and personal qualities do they need?

Your values, attitude and how you treat people who need care and support is really important. You'll be working directly with all sorts of people, with different care and support needs and you may be responsible for their wellbeing.

Here are just some of the qualities needed to be a great care worker:

- treat people with respect and dignity
- be a good listener and communicator
- be reliable
- be able to follow instructions and procedures
- have an understanding of other people's feelings.

How do I get into care work?

There are no set requirements, but you'll find it useful to have some experience in a caring role. This could be personal experience of caring for someone you know, or voluntary work with an organisation that supports vulnerable people.

You'll be working with children or vulnerable adults, so you'll need [Disclosure and Barring Service](#) (DBS) clearance.

You could get into this job through an [apprenticeship](#).

If you're new to adult social care in England, you'll need to gain the Care Certificate as part of a 12-week induction programme provided by your employer.

Find out more at [Skills for Care](#).

Within 6 months of starting in children's residential care, you'll need to have or get the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare or equivalent.

Find out more about the [Children's homes regulations](#).

Where can I study?

Manchester Adult Education Service - www.manchester.gov.uk/adulted

Making Career Choices - Your Study and Approach to Learning.

Find out more about working in a health and social care setting or childcare.

Level 1 Award in Working with Adults in Health and Social Care. (NCFE)

Entry requirements is Level 1 Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills.

Level 2 Certificate in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care (NCFE)

Entry requirements is Level 2 reading and writing, good ICT skills and be prepared to undertake DBS check/

The Manchester College - 0161 203 2100 www.themanchestercollege.ac.uk

BTEC (Edexcel) Diploma Level 2 in Health and Social Care

Requires a Level 2 qualification in either English or maths (or grade D in GCSE and a minimum of a Level 1 qualification in the other subject.

BTEC (Edexcel) Diploma Level 3 in Health and Social Care

Requires Level 2 Health and Social Care or GCSE in English or Maths grade C or above and a minimum of Grade D in the other subject.

Workbased Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care

For those who are already working in the sector.

Stockport College – Tel: 0300 300 0090 www.stockport.ac.uk

BTEC (Edexcel) Level 1 Diploma in Health and Social Care

requires a level 1 in Literacy and numeracy

BTEC (Edexcel) Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care

Requires the equivalent of 3 GCSE's at Grade D. (Equivalent could be a level 1 in English and Maths plus a level 1 in Health and Social Care)

BTEC (Edexcel) Extended Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care

Requires 5 GCSE's at grade A – C in English, Maths, and Science. If you only have the 3 GCSE's in Maths, English and Science, but have another level 2 qualification, say in Health and Social Care, this may be accepted.

Contact colleges listed below for information on Health and Social Care Courses.

Tameside College (www.tameside.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 908 6600

Bury College (www.burycollege.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 280 8280

Oldham College (www.oldham.ac.uk) Tel: 0800 269 480

What are the job prospects in Care Work?

There is lots of growth in the social care sector, therefore more job opportunities being created to meet the demand?

(Source -<http://www.economicmodelling.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Greater-Manchester-LEP-Final-Version>)

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Skills for Care – (for adult social care)

www.skillsforcare.co.uk

www.aquestionofcare.org.uk – a useful video based challenge to help you decide if a career in social care is for you.

MAES Learner Advisors can give advice on careers, education, training and job search. Make an appointment at your local centre:

www.manchester.gov.uk/adulted

The National Careers Service (see Job Profiles)

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

You are advised to check material facts as although every effort has been made to ensure that information given is up to date we are aware that information is subject to change. The website links are used to provide further information and are not intended to signify that MAES endorses such websites and their content.