

Employ GM

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Working in
Health & Social Care

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1.4m*
people employed
within the NHS

1.6m*
people employed
within social care

500,000*
additional roles
available by 2030

Would you like to work in a role where you have the capacity to change lives for the better? In the Health and Social Care sector, you can work in a fast-paced environment where no two days are the same. With over 80 different possible job roles within the sector*, there's a lot of choice for exactly how you can impact lives, too.

With lots of progression opportunities and high demand for new people, Health and Social care can help you achieve your employment goals.

* Prospects.ac.uk information

Opportunities



Here are some of the typical job opportunities within Health and Social Care, and how you can make your first steps within the sector:

Nursing

There are a wide range of opportunities within the nursing profession, whether you would like to care for children and young people, adults or specialise in a particular area, such as emergency response or minor injuries. Opportunities include:

- Senior Staff Nurse
- Ward Sister/Charge Nurse
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner
- Lead Nurse
- Matron

Counsellor

Counsellors provide a safe and confidential environment for clients to talk. You will actively listen to clients, helping them to explore their behaviour patterns and make their own choices. Sessions with clients can cover a range of issues, including:

- Divorce or relationship difficulties
- Illness
- Bereavement
- Unemployment or job uncertainty
- General anxiety

Promotion is likely to be into team leader or management roles. These usually involve less time spent with individual clients and more on supervising a staff team and working on overall strategy.

Social worker

Social workers support individuals and their families through difficult times and ensure that vulnerable people are safeguarded from harm, improving their lives. This often means using professional judgment and procedures set by government to make tough decisions.

Specialist roles include:

- Homelessness Officer
- Day-care Social Worker
- Education Welfare Officer
- Healthcare and Mental Health Social Worker

Social work is a profession where promotion is likely to take you away from hands-on work. Three to five years after qualifying, it's possible to become a senior practitioner or team manager.

Other career paths in this sector include:

- Midwifery
- Healthcare Assistant (Hospice)
- Home Carer
- Physiotherapist

Gain qualifications in Health and Social Care

There are a wide variety of courses and qualifications open to you in Greater Manchester. You have a lot of choice available, so we'll run down what each option could mean for you.

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship gives you the opportunity to “learn while you earn” and can work best for people wanting to try a new career or who feel they are practical learners. A common misconception with apprenticeships is that they are mainly for school leavers- apprenticeships are for people of all ages, and are a great way to restart your career, change your career, or progress in your current career.

Adult Courses

There are a wide range of adult courses available across Greater Manchester. Many of these courses are fully funded, which means there is no cost to you, or your employer if you are currently employed. These courses have a range of levels, meaning you can boost your skill set, or go for a full qualification in an area that interests you.

Volunteering

You could get a volunteer position as a befriender to lonely older members of your community.

If you would like to get a real taste of what it is like to work in the sector and gain valuable Health and Social Care work experience, there are a wide range of volunteering opportunities available to work around your life: Visit doit.life/volunteer

To discover more about the ways in which you can learn and achieve in Greater Manchester, visit: employgm.org/learning-and-skills

Core Functions

Want to work in Health and Social Care, but the traditional avenues aren't for you? There are also a wide range of roles that utilise different skill sets to support Health and Social Care staff, directly impacting real people's lives for the better.



Accounting - There are many exciting options in the accounting profession as you can work in a variety of industries. Accounting pays well, offers prospects for advancement, and allows you to assist organisations thrive into the next decade and beyond.



Business Administration - This is a fast-paced job with opportunities to advance and work in a range of sectors and businesses. It's also a professional route that may lead to lots of options if you decide to move into another business sector later in life.



Human Resources - HR professionals' have a responsibility to look after the wellbeing and happiness of employees. A well-trained and organised HR department is essential for maintaining a motivated and productive workforce.



Digital Marketing - As technology advances, so are the possibilities for more effective marketing. There's a variety of professional options to select from, whether you want to get into management, analytics, product design, or anything else.



IT - IT requires you to continually utilise your talents to stay up to date with modern technologies. You will develop the skills to support internal and external customers, helping them to be productive by problem-solving and troubleshooting non-routine issues.

All these roles offer a lot of flexibility within your career. Once you've trained and worked in one of these professions you can move between sectors, offering a lot of professional freedom.

How can I 'step up' into a senior role?

A lot of roles, such as Care Assistants or Support Workers, require you complete a Level 2 or Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care. Once you've achieved this qualification, there are lots of opportunities to step up into more senior roles.

Gain a qualification

There are over 50 vocational qualifications at different levels in social care. They're specific to social care and teach you the practical skills and knowledge you need for the role you want.

You could also do an apprenticeship to help you progress; they're available for new and existing staff of any age.

Gain skills and complete training

In any role you'll have to do some mandatory training; this might include health and safety, food hygiene, or fire safety.

There should be plenty of opportunities to do additional training at work and this could include classroom-based training, e-learning or on the job training.

Typical progression pathway:



What else do employers want?

Employers in the Health and Social Care sector look for candidates with:

- The ability to stay calm in high-pressure situations
- Attention to detail with good observation and analytical skills
- Empathy and excellent communication skills to deal with patients and their families in difficult times
- The ability to work in a team as very rarely will you be able to help a patient without input from multiple people.

How do I get started?



Wondering how best to progress within the Health and Social Care sector? In this section, we'll make it clear how you can move forward within the sector, whether you're already experienced, or someone making their first steps into a new career.

What skills do I need?

In order to gain your first role in the Health and Social Care sector, employers often look for the following qualifications:

- Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in the Care Sector
- Level 2 or 3 Certificate in Preparing to Work in the Care Sector.

Often you will need core qualifications in English and Maths to start these courses.

What are the initial roles I could do?

There are lots of entry-level care roles you could apply for, such as Care Worker, or Personal Assistant.

There are also support roles such as Office and Administration, Cook or Kitchen Assistant, Driver or Transport Manager or Housekeeping.

For more information about gaining these qualifications and get your career started in the sector, visit the National Careers Service website at: nationalcareers.service.gov.uk or call **0800 100 900**

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