



**Building a course from
Gateway Qualifications
Level 2 Skills for Health and Social
(Adults and Children) qualifications**

Flexibility is a key feature of our Skills for... qualifications. They have only a few mandatory units and a large choice of optional units, including some in employability skills and a number at different levels. This structure allows for lots of different permutations and means that providers can put together bespoke courses for their learners.

Before you decide which units to include in your course, you need to have a clear idea of its over-riding purpose. Once you are sure of this, you should also consider:

- Learners' planned progression routes
- Learners' starting points
- Learners' interests and learning styles/preferences
- Local skills needs or opportunities
- Access to specialist facilities, resources, staff
- The blend/balance of knowledge, understanding and skills you wish to achieve
- The organisation's capacity to offer learners a choice of optional units.

Flexibility features

- Small number of mandatory units
- Lots of optional units covering the breadth of the sector
- Units at different levels
- Employability units you can add in – or not

Functional Skills

Don't forget health and social care sessions can provide excellent opportunities for developing and practising Maths and English skills.

Sample programmes for Level 2 Skills for Health and Social Care (Adults and Children)

Example 1: Level 2 Diploma in Skills for Health and Social Care (Adults and Children)

This course is all about re-engagement in learning. It has been designed for a group of learners, many of whom have been NEET and lack basic employability skills. Most only have a handful of mainly lower grade GCSEs. The learners have all professed an interest in health and social care but are not very knowledgeable about the sector or possible career options within it.

This Level 2 Diploma course is intended to give the learners a broad introduction to the sector, at the same time helping them develop relevant employability skills. The course includes an element of work placement to give learners a better understanding of the nature of the sector and the skills, attitudes and behaviours required to succeed in the workplace. The employability skills units, for the most part, are integrated into the health and social care learning. For example the unit 'Solving work-related problems' is assessed alongside 'Communication in health and social care', using scenarios in which learners must come up with ways to tackle barriers to communication between staff and clients and to deal with issues relating to conflicts of interest between information-sharing and confidentiality. 'Time management' and 'Effectiveness at work' are largely assessed through work placement. The one level 1 unit is included to give learners an early experience of achievement and hence quickly build up their confidence. (Learning about healthy eating is also important for their own well-being). Some of the units have also been chosen on the basis that they lend themselves to practical teaching and learning, on the basis that this particularly learner group is more motivated by active learning experiences.

Units selected

Equality and inclusion in health, social care and children and young people's settings (2)	Communication in health and social care (3)	Duty of care in health and social care (3)
Planning a healthy diet (3)	Basic first aid principles (1)	Health and safety in the workplace (2)
Introduction to physical disability (3)	Introduction to mental health (3)	Protection and safeguarding in health and social care (3)
Team work in health, social care or children and young people's settings (3)	Care of the elderly (3)	Working in health and social care (3)
Time management (2)	Learning from work placement (2)	
Effectiveness at work (2)	Solving work-related problems (2)	

- Mandatory units
 - Level 1 units
- (Figures in brackets = credit value)

Example 2: Level 2 Extended Certificate in Skills for Health and Social Care (Adults and Children)

This course has been designed to give learners the grounding they need to progress onto the college's level 3 Health and Social Care course. Many of the learners originally wanted to join the level 3 course but fell short of the entry requirements and have been re-routed to level 2. To help secure progression to the higher level course, this level 2 Extended Certificate course includes mainly units in areas covered by the mandatory units in the Level 3 qualification that the college offers.

The course begins with the unit, 'Working in health and social care', which tutors use to help learners begin to plot out a career path in the sector. This helps the learners to understand the relevance of the other units on the course and to begin to think of themselves as on the first rung of the ladder to being a health and social care professional. Wherever possible, the tutor works with the learner to contextualise assignments so that they relate to the learner's career plans. For example, in the unit, 'Team work in health, social care or children and young people's settings', learners are encouraged to explore the nature of team-working in the area they would like to go into, so some learners might focus on youth work, while others look at day care settings.

Units selected

Equality and inclusion in health, social care and children and young people's settings (2)	Communication in health and social care (3)	Duty of care in health and social care (3)
Working in health and social care (3)	Protection and safeguarding in health and social care (3)	Health and safety in the workplace (2)
Person-centred approaches in health and social care (2)	Team work in health, social care or children and young people's settings (3)	Infection prevention and control in health, social care and children and young people's settings (3)

- Mandatory units
(Figures in brackets = credit value)

Planning courses with specific progression routes in mind

If learners are planning to apply for an apprenticeship, employment or level 3 course in a specific area of health and social care, there are certain units that are particularly useful to include in their level 2 course. The following are some examples; discussions with colleagues and with local employers should help you identify others.

Specific progression focus	Unit(s)
Working with older adults	Care of the elderly; Dementia awareness; Stroke awareness; Dealing with loss and grief in health and social care
Working with adults in social care	Person-centred approaches in health and social care; Introduction to learning disability; Supporting an individual to be part of a community
Working in health	Maintaining quality standards in the health sector

Cross-faculty planning

The Level 2 Skills for Health and Social Care (Adults and Children) qualifications belong to a suite of similarly-titled vocational qualifications from Entry 3 to Level 2 in a wide range of sectors and in several different sizes. The suite also includes Entry 3 and Level 1 Vocational Studies qualifications which enable learners to explore different vocational areas. For more information, see

http://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/qualifications/ocn_eastern_region_qualifications/suite_of_skills.

The qualifications in the suite share a number of units (including employability skills units), structure and assessment approach, which means you may wish to plan some aspects of your delivery, assessment and/or internal moderation across curriculum areas. You might consider working collaboratively to

- Plan the curriculum
- Develop assignments
- Explore opportunities for co-teaching learners across sectors
- Plan progression routes within (and beyond) your own provision
- Cross-moderate learners' work
- Improve and/or achieve consistency of standards across curriculum areas
- Develop vocational tasters
- Develop a whole-organisation approach to foundation level programmes.