



Society, Health and Development



The society, health and development sector accounts for 15% of the entire UK workforce. It includes the NHS, one of the world's largest employers, and offers a wide range of jobs and careers.

What's happening?

- The health sector includes the National Health Service, independent healthcare providers and voluntary organisations.
- The majority of occupations are linked to hospital activities and community health services - including people working in nursing homes, private surgeries and places like pharmacists and opticians.
- The government is continuing to implement the NHS Plan, a series of reforms that began in 2002, many of which aim to improve the way various services and employees work together.
- Social care includes caring for old people. Old people may be cared for in hospital, in a residential care home or in their own home.
- There is a shortage of people with adequate skills for the jobs. 28% of organisations report skills gaps and 7% have said that they have been unable to fill vacancies due to a lack of skills in applicants for the jobs.
- This sector employs a largely female workforce (83%), 52% of whom work on a part-time basis.
- Wages in the sector are low for most grades of staff. This has meant that turnover of staff has frequently been high.
- Apprenticeships can be a good route into a job. Learn valuable skills and gain nationally recognised qualifications.

How much could I earn?

	Average annual salary (£s)
Care Assistants and Home Carers	£12,184
Dental Nurse	£12,901
Dental Practitioner	£31,444
Hospital and Health Services Manager	£40,461
Hospital Porter	£16,570
Medical Practitioner	£74,220
Midwife	£26,618
Nurse	£23,898
Paramedic	£35,570
Social Services Manager	£36,178
Social Worker	£26,876

Salary rates have been calculated using the average gross pay for full-time workers. Figures are for the United Kingdom. Averages can hide higher earnings. With training and career development, higher salaries can be achieved. Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings 2008, ONS, © Crown Copyright.

What we think will happen

- While the immediate future is uncertain due to the current economic downturn it is likely that the sector will still require employees (due to retirement and other reasons).
- It is predicted that the care sector will increase its staffing by around 7% in the period 2005-2014.
- Managers and senior officials, and professional occupations are among the fastest growing major occupational groups within the health sector.
- Rising standards and increasing regulation will see more people studying for qualifications.
- There is expected to be an increase in the demand for residential care workers as more people reach the age of 80 or above.

Do you want to work in Society, Health and Development? Is this you?

- Relate well to people
- Caring, friendly and reliable
- Compassionate and discreet
- Good at listening
- Good communication skills

Some job suggestions

- Ambulance Technician
- Care Assistant
- Complementary Therapist
- Dentist
- Dietician
- Doctor
- Health Care Assistant
- Health Visitor
- Nurse
- Nursery Nurse
- Osteopath
- Paramedic
- Pharmacy Technician
- Social Worker

Routes into Society, Health and Development

Level 1 (Foundation)	Level 2 (Intermediate)	Level 3 (Advanced)	Level 4 (Higher)
GCSE Grades D – G BTEC Introductory Diploma NVQ 1 Foundation Diploma	GCSE Grades A* – C BTEC First Diploma NVQ 2 Apprenticeship Higher Diploma	A Level BTEC National Diploma NVQ 3 Advanced Apprenticeship Advanced Diploma	HND Foundation Degree First Degree NVQ 4

A Diploma in **Society, Health and Development** covers human growth, personal and professional development and health and safety. It also covers supporting children and young people's development within the sectors of adult social care, community justice and children and young people's field of work and study.

See: www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/diploma

Check with your school or Connexions Personal Adviser when this will be on offer in your local area.

Note: there are a number of ways of training for this area of work; the new Diploma is just one of these. See Routes into Society, Health and Development for the options.

Want to know more?

Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk
or call the **helpline on 08000 150600**

General Social Care Council – www.gsc.org.uk

National Health Service Careers – www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

Skills for Care – www.skillsforcare.org.uk

Skills for Health – www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Social Care Careers – www.socialworkandcare.co.uk

The Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education

– www.cache.org.uk

The Diploma – www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas

" I am very supportive of the Diploma in Society, Health and Development because it is a real and practical way to encourage young people into different and important areas of our and other linked sectors. The Diploma should not only provide a good academic base, but also a range of practical and interpersonal skills as well as a real insight into some of the difficult but exciting issues in the field."

Julian Hartley, CEO, Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust

Want to speak to somebody?

Go to www.connexionswest.org.uk for addresses of Connexions West of England local centres or contact Connexions Direct. Connexions Direct can offer you all the information and advice you need to make the decisions and choices in your life.

Connexions Direct: **080 800 13 2 19** Text: **07766 4 13 2 19**

Webchat/Email: www.connexions-direct.com