

# Thinking Ahead?

## Care Work/Care Assistant

Produced by  
Manchester Adult Education Service  
Information and Guidance Team  
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Some information extracted from National Careers Service website

# Learner Services

## Care Worker/Health Care Assistant

### What do they 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.

You'll be helping people in their own homes or in day centres, residential or nursing homes.

### Skills required

- the ability to relate to people from a wide variety of backgrounds
- skills in communicating with tact and sensitivity
- the ability to remain calm under pressure
- treat people with respect and dignity
- be a good listener and communicator
- be reliable
- be able to follow instructions and procedures
- an understanding of other people's feelings.

Depending on the role, you may need to cope with challenging behaviour.

### How to become a Care Worker

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](#).

### Local training providers

**Manchester Adult Education Service** - [www.manchester.gov.uk/adulted](http://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** - 0333 222 444 [www.themanchestercollege.ac.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.tameside.ac.uk)) Tel: 0161 908 6600

Bury College ([www.burycollege.ac.uk](http://www.burycollege.ac.uk)) Tel: 0161 280 8280

Oldham College ([www.oldham.ac.uk](http://www.oldham.ac.uk)) Tel: 0800 269 480

### **Degree and Post Graduate Degree courses**

A list of up to date local HCPC approved degree and post graduate courses can be found at <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/>

- **Manchester Metropolitan University** - Tel: 0161 247 6969
- **University of Salford** - Tel: 0161 295 4545 <http://www.salford.ac.uk/study>
- **University of Manchester** - Tel: 0161 306 6000 <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/>
- **Open University** - Tel: 01908 274066 [www.open.ac.uk/courses/find/social-work](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/find/social-work)

## Access to Higher Education courses /GCSE's

The following colleges in Greater Manchester offer relevant Access courses and GCSE's for adults:

- The Manchester College – Tel: 0333 322 2444 - [www.tmc.ac.uk](http://www.tmc.ac.uk)
- Trafford College – Tel: 0161 886 7000 - [www.trafford.ac.uk/courses/access-higher-education-courses](http://www.trafford.ac.uk/courses/access-higher-education-courses)
- The Cheadle and Marple Adult College – Tel: 0161 486 4600 - [www.camsfc.ac.uk](http://www.camsfc.ac.uk)
- Hopwood Hall College (Middleton campus) – Tel: 0161 643 7560  
[www.hopwood.ac.uk/discover-adult-he/access-higher-education](http://www.hopwood.ac.uk/discover-adult-he/access-higher-education)
- Salford City College – Tel: 0161 631 5000  
[www.salfordcc.ac.uk/universitycentre/access-courses/](http://www.salfordcc.ac.uk/universitycentre/access-courses/)
- Bolton College – Tel: 01204 482000 [www.bolton.ac.uk](http://www.bolton.ac.uk)
- Aquinas College (Stockport) – Tel: 0161 419 9163  
<http://www.aquinas.ac.uk/adulteducation/access-higher-education-diploma>

## Links for other useful information

- Skills for Care – (for adult social care) [www.skillsforcare.co.uk](http://www.skillsforcare.co.uk)
- [www.aquestionofcare.org.uk](http://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](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/adulted)
- The National Careers Service (see Job Profiles)  
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

## Funding for Study:

General information about funding for Higher Education (degree courses) can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

**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.**