

Within health there are two different types of role – frontline jobs which involve direct contact with patients and support roles which are vital to keeping the service running. Social care is about supporting people to so that they can keep a sense of wellbeing and independence. There's a growing demand for people to care for others in this way, whether in a residential care setting, day centre or in their own home.

Around 40,000 nursing vacancies across the UK

Over 350 different careers in the NHS

Number of social care jobs expected to increase by 18% (275,000 jobs) by 2025 .

Source: Gov.UK/GBSLEP

Future trends

New technologies and discoveries are creating new job areas in health and social care:

patient monitoring | personal diagnostics | robotics | assistive technology | genomic medicine | bioscience | use of apps | genetic research | anti-microbial resistance | assistive technologies | advanced materials

For all of these areas of work there will be support roles such as lab technician and administrative work as well as a demand for people with high level qualifications.

ICT, digital and information specialists are also needed to help manage patient data, develop the IT infrastructure and keep it secure, improve mobile communications and manage clinical information.

In demand:

software developers | IT systems architects | digital marketing specialists | data analysts | 3D designers | business intelligence specialists | management consultants | cyber security professionals | artificial intelligence experts | games developers | VFX specialists | app developers | ethical hackers | coding specialists

Skills and qualities

Some employers report that they struggle to find candidates with the right people or personal skills. In health and care, employers are particularly looking for:

Communication

Compassion

Written English

Maths

ICT and digital skills

Team working

Problem solving

Planning and organisation

Calm under pressure

Initiative

Customer service

Flexible

What could you earn?



These are the average salaries you might expect to earn in health and care*.

Care worker £17,500

Dental nurse £17,800

Lab technician £20,450

Medical secretary £20,850

Nurse £31,850

Social worker £33,650

Midwife £36,200

Biological scientist £38,150

Pharmacist £42,250

Doctor £75,550

*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017 median salary rounded to nearest £50

Skills for Care Royal College of Nursing

For more information, visit: nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk or call a professional careers adviser on 0800 100 900 (8am – 10pm daily).



/nationalcareersservice



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The local picture

There's a wide variety of workplaces in our area as well as many different types of jobs – from emergency and critical care in hospitals to therapy work in community settings. There are also jobs in the public and private sector.

We're seeing a high demand for nurses and across the whole region and, like other areas of the UK, the number of new jobs in personal services (care) is growing year on year. Social workers are also in demand – especially in Birmingham.

Source: Business Birmingham

How many people are employed in health and care in our area?

Birmingham – human health 56,500; residential care 11,500; social work 15,000

Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest - human health 7,500; residential care 4,500; social work 3,025

Solihull - human health 4,750; residential care 2,750; social work 2,750

Southern Staffordshire - human health 12,025; residential care 4,375; social work 3,500

Large and valued companies in the area include:

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust | NHS Worcestershire Acute Hospitals | BMI Healthcare | University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust | Allied Healthcare | Stafford and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust | Lloyds Pharmacies | Staffordshire County Council | Birmingham City Council | Rowlands Pharmacies | Virgin Care | Radis Community Care | Birmingham Dental Hospital

Finding out more

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Careers-in-care

www.wanttobeadoctor.co.uk



Getting in



The wide variety of roles in health and care means there are pathways to suit young people, those who want a career change and also for those who wish to return to a health career after a long break. For most jobs in medicine you'll need a degree and sometimes postgraduate qualifications but from September 2017 degree-level apprenticeships became an option for getting into nursing.

Continuing to study science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) subjects will open up more opportunities in medicine and health care.

Apprenticeships at different levels are also available for roles such as healthcare assistant, care home manager, lab technician, occupational therapy assistant and care worker.

Types of apprenticeships include:



healthcare science assistant, healthcare support worker, dental technician, laboratory technician, rehabilitation worker, paramedic (degree apprenticeship), adult care worker, nurse (degree apprenticeship), pharmacy assistant

If you're considering a career in social work, degree apprenticeships will be available from autumn 2018.