



Society, Health & Development Job Information Sheet

What is society, health & development?

Workers in healthcare are concerned with the health and well-being of people. As well as caring for those who are ill, there are opportunities to investigate new and better treatments and to educate people about healthier lifestyles. Besides the hospital wards, people in health care also work in clinics, GPs' and dentists' surgeries and health centres, hospices and nursing homes, as well as people's own homes, workplaces, or sometimes shops or research companies.

Workers in the social care help people by giving them the advice and support necessary to change their own lives and move forward in a positive way. It could mean giving advice and information or practical help such as personal care for people with disabilities, or support to help people deal with problems.

If you are interested in people, good at communicating, and keen to do something to help others, health and social care can be a very demanding, but equally rewarding, career.

The early years are the time between 0 to 8 years. Early years childcare and education is concerned with children's physical, emotional, social and educational development. Childcare workers help to provide support, security and a stable environment for children in a variety of settings.

In order to work with children, you need to like children and enjoy being with them, understand child development and have endless patience. You also need to be observant, imaginative and creative.

Are there jobs for 16-19 year olds?

To be a doctor, dentist, nurse, social worker, physiotherapist or pharmacist you need to study at university. However, there are many jobs in health and social care that do not require a degree or diploma. There are many opportunities for young people to work in the early years sector - provided that they have the correct qualifications. It is now necessary for all people involved in childcare to be qualified to a minimum of NVQ 2 or the equivalent.

Below is a selection of jobs that could be available to 16-19 year olds living in Central London. Further details of these and many other jobs can be found at www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/.

Some of these will not ask for any qualifications and others will need good GCSEs, A levels or relevant vocational college courses. For almost all jobs in health and social care it is a big advantage to have some work experience. This could be gained as part of a course at school or college or through doing voluntary work.

This information sheet covers jobs for 16-19 year olds in Central London. It does not cover graduate jobs or jobs that are rare in Central London. For details of the whole range of jobs in the Early Years, Childcare & industry go to www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/.

Jobs for 16-19 year olds in society, health & development

- **Nannies** care for children in the home of the child. Recommended qualifications: CACHE Diploma in Child Care and Education or NVQ in Early Years Care and Education.
- **Nursery assistants** are involved with caring for babies, toddlers, pre-school children and out-of-school care. Recommended qualifications: NVQ Level 2 in Early Years Care and Education or CACHE Certificate in Child Care and Education.
- **Nursery nurses** may work in childcare centres unsupervised. Required qualifications: CACHE Diploma in Childcare and Education or NVQ Level 3 in Early Years Care and Education.
- **Play assistants** help the play leader. Recommended qualifications: CACHE Certificate in Pre-school Practice or NVQ Level 2 in Early Years Care and Education.
- **Play leaders** manage playgroups, often working with parents. Required qualifications: CACHE Diploma in Pre-school Practice or NVQ Level 3 in Early Years Care and Education.
- **Classroom assistants** help the teacher in the classroom. Recommended qualifications: CACHE Certificate for Teaching Assistants 2/3 or NVQ Teaching Assistants 2/3.
- **Nursery nurses** support the teacher within the classroom or nursery. Required qualifications: CACHE Diploma in Child Care and Education or NVQ Level 3 in Early Years Care and Education.
- **Playworkers** look after children aged 4-16 in breakfast clubs, after-school clubs or holiday play schemes. Recommended qualifications: NVQ Level 2 in Playwork or CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Playwork.
- **Dental nurses** work closely with dentists preparing the surgery, passing instruments, removing water and saliva from the patient's mouth, sterilising instruments, preparing fillings, and tidying the surgery after the patient has left. Qualifications are not needed, but GCSEs in English and biology can be an advantage.
- **Medical laboratory assistants** work in hospital pathology laboratories to help diagnose and treat patients. The work is practical and involves analysing samples of body tissue and fluids taken from patients. There are no formal entry requirements but most hospitals want applicants to have at least four GCSEs grades A-C or equivalent qualifications and some ask for A levels
- **Healthcare assistants** support other healthcare professionals with the day-to-day tasks of patient care. They help patients with tasks they cannot manage for themselves. There are no minimum entry requirements, though some employers may require qualifications such as NVQs or GNVQs in Care.
- **Dispensing opticians** make up prescriptions and fit and supply spectacles, contact lenses and other optical appliances, but do not examine eyes. Selling is an important part of the work. You normally need at least 5 GCSEs (A-C) including English, maths and science and often A levels.
- **Optical manufacturing technicians** make spectacle and contact. There are no set entry requirements and training is normally through an apprenticeship.
- **Pharmacy technicians** working in hospitals prepare and supply drugs and other medicinal products. Retail community pharmacy technicians supply medicine to the general public. There are no set entry requirements, but employers generally expect four GCSEs (A-C) with English, maths and science, or equivalent qualifications, and many ask for A levels.
- **Care assistants** provide practical help, for to people who have difficulties living their day-to-day lives. They may work in people's own homes, or in somewhere like a nursing home. There are no set qualifications but some work or voluntary experience is useful. Care assistants normally need to be at least 18.

Live society, health & development vacancies (on 1st September 2010)

Young people in Central London can search for job and training opportunities at www.mychoicelondon.co.uk/choicejobs. When this information sheet was published the following vacancies were available:

LOIS Ref	Vacancy	Organisation	Location	Notes
L19000642	Nursery Nurse	Childcare	City of London	NVQ 3 in early years or childcare required
L19001484	Qualified Creche Assistant	Sport and Leisure Centre	Tower Hamlets	Must have NVQ 2 in childcare
L19001921	Play Assistant	After School Club	North London Schools	NVQ 2 in childcare or playwork required
L19002038	Nursery Advanced Apprenticeship	Day Nursery	Lewisham	Must have NVQ 2 in childcare ***Closing date 23/9/10***
L19002039	Nursery Apprentice	Day Nursery	Lewisham	***Closing date 24/9/10***
L27002318	Play worker	Day Nursery	Willesden	NVQ 2 or 3 in childcare
L27002347	Childcare Apprenticeship	Nursery	Southwark	
L27002374	Playworker	Children's Charity	Brixton	Must be over 18 in receiving benefit
L18000182	Childcare Apprenticeships	Nursery	South East London	
L12001811	Childcare Apprentices	Nursery	Croydon	
L12003222	Nursery Assistant/ Apprentice	Nursery	South Norwood	GCSE grades A*-C required
L12003253	Kid's Activity Instructors	Sport & Leisure Centres	Throughout London	

Vacancies in red are new this month. To find out more about any of these vacancies either speak to your Personal Adviser or contact the nearest centre listed at the bottom of this page. If you do not live in any of the areas listed below you can find your local Connexions centre at: www.connexions-direct.com/index.cfm?go=localServices

A College or 6th form course?

If you are interested in early years, childcare and education staying on in full-time education can be a good option.

The CACHE level 2 Certificate in Childcare and Education is a one-year course that includes both classroom study and placement. You normally need GCSE grade Ds or above to get onto this course and when you finish you can go onto the diploma course or enter employment.

The CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Child Care and Education is a two-year course and like the certificate course, includes academic study and work placement. You normally need 4 GCSEs at grades A*-C or the CACHE Certificate to get onto this course and when you finish you can go onto higher education or enter employment.

BTEC First and National Diplomas in Early Years is also available at some colleges. Like the CACHE courses they combine classroom study with placements and entry qualifications are similar to the CACHE Certificate (for the BTEC First Diploma) or Diploma (for the BTEC National Diploma).

There are also courses available for those with lower grade GCSEs, such as the CACHE Foundation Award in Childcare. However, because you now need at least a level 2 qualification to work in childcare, students will to continue their studies before finding work.

If you are interested in health or social care staying on in full-time education can be a good option. For some careers, such as medicine and dentistry, you need to follow the academic (or A Level) route but for many other careers vocational courses can be a good choice.

You will normally need a couple of grade E GCSEs to enter Foundation, Introductory or Level 1 courses in health and social care. Intermediate or First Diploma or level 2 courses will usually ask for four GCSEs at grade D and vocational A Level or National Diploma courses grades A-C.

On many of these courses you will spend some time on a work experience placement, which can really help when it comes to getting a job or a university course.

Diplomas

The Diploma is a new qualification that combines classroom study with practical experience. Diplomas will be available at Foundation, Higher and Advanced Levels in many colleges and 6th forms and, in some cases, may replace other vocational courses.

The Society, Health & Development Diploma was introduced in Islington, Wandsworth and some other parts of London from September 2008.

You can find details of courses available in your area at www.mychoicelondon.co.uk

Voluntary Work

Voluntary work can be a good way of getting some experience in health and social care. You can contact voluntary departments in your local NHS trusts (see the Other Vacancy Sites above for details – phone the trust and ask for voluntary services) but some will only take over 18 year olds to work with patients. Don't forget that any work in a hospital can give you a useful insight and that organisations such as Millennium Volunteers (www.mvonline.gov.uk) might have interesting projects in your area.

Other Vacancy Sites

Employers don't only employ young people. Many will look for people with experience or qualifications. Because employers recruit people of all ages many vacancies will not be on the LOIS site (which is just for young people) but on the sites listed below.

NHS Jobs www.jobs.nhs.uk	Have around 4,000 new vacancies from National Health Service employers across England.
NHS London www.london.nhs.uk	Links to recruitment sites for NHS trusts in London.
Jobcentre Plus jobseekers.direct.gov.uk	The national Jobcentre Plus site has a lot of health and social care vacancies (select 'Looking for a job' then 'Search for a job'). However, many of the vacancies ask for at least some relevant experience. The site also has links to jobs from other sources, such as employment agencies.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer training to young people who want to learn while working. Details of apprenticeship will be listed with Live Vacancies above when they are available.

Young people may be able to find training based with an employer through an Apprenticeship or an Advanced Apprenticeship, which can lead to NVQs at level 2 and 3 in early years care and education.

NVQ 2 is for those who are working at assistant level, on a supervised basis, such as nursery assistants, pre-school assistants, playgroup assistants or crèche assistants. It is possible to progress to NVQ level 3 after suitable experience.

NVQ 3 is for those who want more responsibility, and are working supervisory level. If you want to work as a fully qualified nursery nurse, you should aim at this level. Senior staff, holding supervisory posts in nurseries, will need an NVQ level 3 qualification.

City and Islington College run an apprenticeship in optical manufacturing. See 'Jobs for 16-19 year olds' above to find out what this involves. Further details from 020 7614 0365.