

# The Diploma

Bringing learning to life



IN SOCIETY, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

**“The Diploma in Society, Health and Development will help to attract young people with a balance of excellent skills, learning and experience across a broad spectrum. This is a real opportunity to develop a workforce for the future which can make a real difference to our sector.”**

**Peter Rowe – CEO, Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust**



# Be part of vital sectors in the UK

Society, Health and Development covers some of the most important sectors in the UK. It's important, because it's about the care and development of the people who live around us. There are four important sectors:

**The children's workforce:** Teachers, youth workers, play workers, nursery nurses and more.

**The health industry:** Medical staff, health workers, healthcare scientists, physiotherapists, occupations therapists and more.

**The community justice sector:** Community support officers and community police officers, probation officers, youth offending teams and more.

**The adult social care sector:** Social workers, care workers and more.

The National Health Service (NHS), which is only part of one of the sectors, is one of the biggest employers in the world. It has over 300 different types of jobs on offer.



### **BUILD ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

The Diploma in Society, Health and Development will give you an understanding of all four sectors: health, social care, the children's workforce and community justice. It will help you to learn the skills that are important to work successfully in these areas: problem solving, team-working, communication and creative thinking. It will also give you a chance to learn in different settings. You could take part in virtual learning by using computer simulations, or you could experience working with a real employer. You could meet healthcare scientists, community police officers, adult social care workers or even a prosthetic limb designer along the way.

# What will I learn?

All levels of the Diploma in Society, Health and Development focus on six main themes:

**The sectors in context:** Focuses on the political, social and economic factors that affect the four sectors today.

**Principles and values in practice:** The values and principles that underpin and inform the practice of everyone across the sectors. It puts the person using the service at the centre of provision.

**Partnership working:** New work practices mean that services work much more closely together to ensure the quality of service provision. For example, in family centres, there will be people from social services, health and the children's workforce all working to ensure quality and integrated services for children and families.

**Communication and information sharing:** Good communication is crucial to people working across the sectors. What are the barriers to good communication, how can they be overcome and are there tensions between good communication and sharing information with other professionals and respecting the privacy of individuals?

**Personal and professional development in the work environment:** Being able to reflect on own practice is a critical aspect of professional development – what did you do well, what can be improved, how can you improve your practice?

**Safeguarding and protecting individuals and society:** People are often working with the most vulnerable people in society. It is important to understand what needs to be done to ensure that people are kept safe.



## ACTIVITIES YOU MIGHT DO IN YOUR PRINCIPAL LEARNING

These are just some  
examples of the kind of learning  
you'll be doing.

### HOW IS THE DIPLOMA MADE UP?

#### Principal learning (subject learning you have to do)

At the heart of the Diploma are your core society, health and development subjects. These will teach you the main things you need to know about the field. You'll learn about the issues that are affecting the sectors today, how they work and what skills you need to work within them.

## FOUNDATION DIPLOMA

### **Principles and values in practice**

You'll learn how an organisation can apply their values in their everyday work and develop the essential skills to do this. You could, for example, through role play, show how communication skills are important in different situations, like dealing with someone who is shouting and being aggressive or someone who finds it hard to speak following a stroke, or working with babies and small children.

**Partnership working** You'll learn how different organisations and services work together. You could, for example, write and then act out a scenario showing all the services involved when someone calls the emergency services.

**Communication and information sharing** You'll learn various ways of informing the general public about issues that concern them. You could, for example, produce a pack that explains the main causes of an infection and lists the standard precautions a person could take to prevent the infection from spreading.

## HIGHER DIPLOMA

### **Principles and values in practice**

You'll learn about the principles and values of different organisations and how they apply these in their everyday work. You could, for example, plan and take part in a role play about a youth-offending team working with a local authority to make sure young offenders go back to school or college after receiving a sentence.

**Partnership working** You'll develop experience in partnership working and team-working. You could, for example, form a team with your course mates and organise an event for children, young people or older people.

**Communication and information sharing** You'll learn different ways of communicating with the community about issues that concern them. You could, for example, carry out a survey of at least 20 people of different ages living in your community, and ask them about crime, what offences worry them most, and how they think crime could be reduced.

## ADVANCED DIPLOMA

**Partnership working** You'll develop experience in partnership working and team-working. You could, for example, do a review of everyone working in your school or college – teachers, Connexions, youth work, out of school clubs, school nurse – to assess how they all work together to meet the needs of students and their families.

**Communication and information sharing** You'll learn about communication and information sharing within and across organisations across the sectors. You could, for example, prepare a training toolkit for new workers that could be used by partner organisations across the four sectors.

**Safeguarding and protecting individuals and society** You'll learn how vulnerable adults and children can be kept safe. You could, for example, do an assessment of the risks faced by users of a local children's centre and the people working there, and investigate procedures and practices which promote wellbeing and help to safeguard and protect people who use services.

## **ADDITIONAL AND SPECIALIST LEARNING (CHOICES YOU CAN MAKE)**

At each level, you can develop your particular interest in society, health and development further by taking specialist courses relating to your chosen subject and career ambitions. You could, for example, learn about infection prevention control, the role of play in learning, or how to handle ethical dilemmas.

Or you might choose a GCSE or A level in subjects like biology and chemistry, which would help you get onto a university course.

You can also broaden your course by taking an additional subject that reflects other interests and career ambitions – like a language, or a creative subject, like music.

## **FUNCTIONAL SKILLS IN ENGLISH, MATHS AND ICT**

Like all Diploma students, you'll develop a good standard of English, maths and ICT. These subjects are essential to succeed in any business or learning environment, whether you decide to continue in the society, health and development sectors or not.

## **PERSONAL, LEARNING AND THINKING SKILLS**

All Diploma students will develop personal, learning and thinking skills, such as team-working, creative thinking and self-management. These are vital skills in both life and work, and will be useful to you in the future, no matter which path you take.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Your Diploma will give you the opportunity to do at least 10 days' work experience. This is a great way to use the knowledge, understanding and skills you have learnt in the classroom, and experience what work is like from the inside.

Advanced Diploma students will complete 20 days' learning in two work-related settings – this is unique to the Diploma in Society, Health and Development.

## **STUDENT PROJECTS**

During your Diploma, you'll complete a student project to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that you have learnt. This could be a written piece of work, like a report or an investigation. Or it could be a practical piece of work, like thinking of ways to make the common room of your local youth club more exciting and easy to get to for young people with different backgrounds and abilities.

# What a **Diploma** will lead to

**A Diploma in Society, Health and Development will give you the skills you need for either university or work, and is a first step towards a career in the sector.**

It could lead you to a university degree in childhood studies, dietetics, nursing, community justice, applied criminology or forensic investigation.

Or it could help you begin a career as a teacher, play worker, a healthcare scientist, a probation officer or a victim support worker, depending on what you are interested in.

However, the Diploma in Society, Health and Development doesn't mean you have to opt for a career in this sector. Because a Diploma teaches a mix of subjects, it will give you the skills that will be welcomed by colleges, universities and employers, no matter what you choose to do.

**“On behalf of the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing at Sheffield Hallam University, I am delighted that we can endorse the Diploma in Society, Health and Development. We have been involved with the development of SHD through our work with the Diploma Development Partnership and we recognise that it will offer a good progression route to a wide range of careers in health.”**

**Catherine Arnold,  
Sheffield Hallam University,  
Faculty of Health and Wellbeing**

# Case study

Hannah Calladine, 17, is studying for an Advanced Diploma in Society, Health and Development at Castle College in Nottingham.

“I’ve learned really major things about society that I wouldn’t have had a clue about if I hadn’t chosen to do this Diploma. I also love the fact that there’s a real mixture of activities. Not everyone is good at, or likes, the same things. The variety means that we can all benefit.”

I’m studying for the Advanced Diploma in Society, Health and Development. It involves learning about different areas – from play workers to healthcare scientists to probation officers. I’m doing this alongside learning functional skills like English, maths and ICT.

I’m finding it very interesting. We’ve got a police officer and a hospice nurse coming into the school soon to talk about different careers and partnership working, and next week we’re going on a day trip to visit a Crown Court.

One of our projects is putting together a timeline on how the NHS started and what the future might hold. We often break into groups and come up with a solution to a given problem. For example we’ve been looking at record keeping in the NHS – whether it should be stored on the Internet and how it can be kept confidential.

Our main project this year is to produce a teaching plan on healthy eating for children and when we’ve finished we’ll have to actually deliver the lesson at local primary schools – I can’t wait for that!

I used to think that a career as a doctor or a nurse was all that the health sector had to offer, but the Diploma has taught me about all kinds of other opportunities. I’ve discovered there’s even a name for someone who takes blood – a phlebotomist! The best part of the Diploma is that it has given me so many choices for the future.



# Want to find out **more?**

To find out more about the Diploma in Society, Health and Development, speak to your teacher or careers adviser. You can also find more information about Diplomas on these websites:

[www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas](http://www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas)

[www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)

[www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/diploma](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/diploma)

## **DOWNLOADING THIS LEAFLET**

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## **FINDING A COURSE IN YOUR AREA**

If you'd like to find out where you can study for this Diploma in your area, go to [http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/where\\_you\\_learn](http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/where_you_learn)

You can download this leaflet or order copies online at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications). Search using reference DCSF-00497-2008.

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**children, schools and families**



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