



# HEALTHCARE & SOCIAL WORK

**The healthcare and social work sector provides very important services within the community, such as the wide range of services available from the National Health Service (NHS), private healthcare organisations, and care homes.**

Currently, the healthcare and social work sector is significantly understaffed, with the need for more employees in this field. Jobs in this sector offer a rewarding and stable career built around caring for others and helping the public.





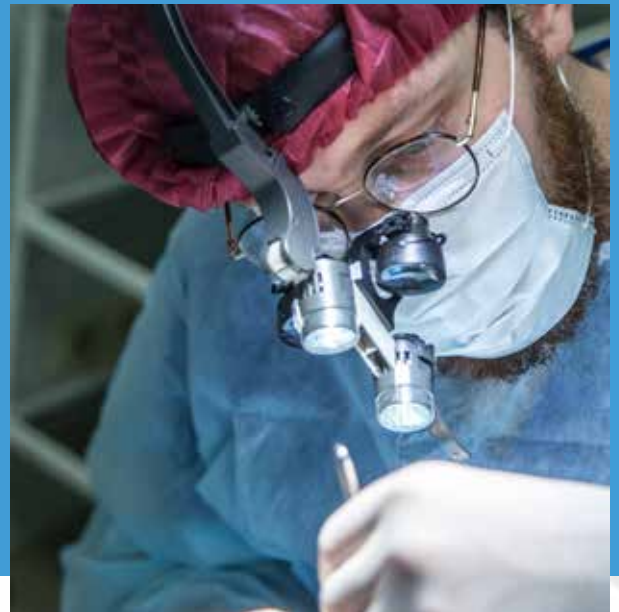
## KEY FACTS

- As a result of a growing need for healthcare services, the NHS has reported a **workforce shortage of over 100,000 staff**.
- The healthcare and social work sector employs over **1.6million** people in the UK.
- Staff across the NHS are in contact with **more than 1.5 million** patients and their families every single day.



## WHY HEALTHCARE & SOCIAL WORK?

There is a constant and evolving need for more workers within this sector. This makes the sector a very stable environment to build a career in. With it being such a crucial sector for society, there will always be a need for more individuals to fill positions. It is also a career that is in demand across the world, meaning that opportunities are available across Northern Ireland and beyond.



Alongside new technological advancements, there are new developments within the healthcare and social work sector, including the creation of new positions. This allows for job progression, with an individual working in the industry for a period of time being able to try new specialisms.

Working in healthcare and social work can be challenging but extremely rewarding, offering the opportunity to have one-to-one communication with patients and experience first-hand their personal growth. Careers in this sector also enable you to see the individual impact you have on a person's life, whether that be through medical means or supportive care.



## WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

Healthcare and social work covers a wide range of positions within the sector, varying from hands-on roles to behind-the-scenes jobs that have equal importance. Just some of the jobs available within this sector include:

- Physiotherapist
  - Radiographer
  - Occupational Therapist
  - Paramedic
  - Counsellor
  - Dentist
  - Biomedical Scientist
  - Medical Equipment Sales
  - Doctor
  - Surgeon
  - Midwife
  - Nurse
  - Nutritionist
  - Optician
  - Porter
  - Domiciliary Carer
  - Pharmacist
  - Social Worker
  - Support Worker
  - Youth Care Worker
- ...and more!



## SALARY EXPECTATIONS

Salaries in the sector will vary significantly based on the job role, entry qualifications required, and the number of years of experience you have. Here are some **average salaries** for job roles within the sector :

Paramedic  
Average salary  
**£37,315 per year**

Biomedical Scientist  
Average salary  
**£53,804 per year**

Doctor (GP)  
Average salary  
**£60,374 per year**

Nutritionist  
Average salary  
**£32,889 per year**

Midwife  
Average salary  
**£40,664 per year**

Nurse  
Average salary  
**£34,638 per year**

Surgeon  
Average salary  
**£97,182 per year**

Pharmacist  
Average salary  
**£35,722 per year**

Domiciliary Care Assistant  
Average salary  
**£21,000 per year**



For further information, click the link highlighted in **blue**



## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

For certain non-specialised roles, such as a Domiciliary Care Assistant or GP Receptionist, often you need a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade C including English and Maths.

For nearly all specialised careers within the healthcare and social work sector, you will need a specific degree in the relevant subject for the role you wish to pursue.

Many universities will require specific A Levels (or equivalent) to be taken in order to be accepted on to the course. If you're interested in a career in this sector, it's a really good idea to plan ahead so you make the right GCSE and A Level subject choices.

For lots of degree programmes, such as Social Work, Youth Work, or Nursing, entry onto the degree course will include providing evidence of relevant work experience and/or volunteering.

It's important to check the entry requirements for the qualification you intend to pursue, to make sure you can plan ahead to meet the requirements.



## WHAT SKILLS ARE USEFUL?

Beyond the qualifications needed to pursue a career in the healthcare and social work sector, employers will also look for various employability skills. Examples of skills and personal attributes that are useful to have to work in this sector include:

- Communication skills
- Interpersonal ('people') skills
- Ability to work in a team
- Ability to work under pressure
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Attention to detail
- Helpful and caring
- Emotional intelligence
- Empathy
- Strong work ethic
- Approachable





## WHERE CAN I GO TO FIND OUT MORE?

Sector Bodies can be a useful resource to find out more about different industries, what it's like to work in them, and find contact information for a range of employers in the sector.

Key Sector Bodies in Northern Ireland for healthcare and social work include:

### Health and Social Care NI

HSCNI is Northern Ireland's publicly-funded healthcare system. It employs 73,000 people in Northern Ireland, in a variety of different roles.



## HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL WORK EMPLOYERS



For further information, click the Company Logos or the links highlighted in **blue**