

Highfield Level 2 Foundation Apprenticeship for FA0007 Health and Social Care

Assessment Specification



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Versions:

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How to use this assessment specification

Welcome to the Highfield Assessment Specification for the Health and Social Care foundation apprenticeship standard.

Highfield is an independent awarding organisation that has been approved to assess and quality assure the Level 2 Health and Social Care foundation apprenticeship standard.

The assessment specification is designed to outline all you need to know about the assessments for this foundation apprenticeship standard and will also provide an overview of the delivery requirements.

Highfield also offers the Highfield Level 2 Health and Social Care Foundation Apprenti-kit, a comprehensive learning resource, designed to be used on-programme.

For more information, please go to the Highfield Products website. Please note that the use of this learning resource is not a prerequisite for apprentices undertaking the Health and Social Care foundation apprenticeship.



Introduction

Standard overview

Health and care support assistants work in a range of health and care settings, for example in a care home, hospital, general practice, as part of a community team and in individuals' homes where their wider team may include workers from both health and social care.

The broad purpose is to provide high-quality and compassionate care and support to individuals. Daily duties will vary dependent on where they work and whether their work is focused on supporting healthcare professionals in providing clinical healthcare or in providing personal care and support in adult social care.

Off-the-job training

This foundation apprenticeship requires a minimum 187 hours off-the-job learning. Upon successful completion, the apprentice will be competent in the knowledge, skills and behaviours outlined in this standard. Someone who completes some or all of this content will be part-way through a journey to a more specialist occupation. Taking another apprenticeship after this one is one way of progressing. More information about the main occupations involved can be found via the Skills England website.

Entry requirements

The apprentice must normally be age 16 to 21 at the start of their apprenticeship. Exceptions to this are set out in the Department for Education Apprenticeship Funding Rules.

Mandatory qualification

There are no mandatory qualifications or license to practice requirements for this occupation.

Mapping to occupational standards

Coverage of each knowledge and skill statement must include each and every occupation it is mapped to, unless expressly stated otherwise. For instance, if skill S1 is mapped to occupation 1 and occupation 2, then the range of coverage must include elements of both 1 and 2 so the apprentice benefits from a broad experience. Competence is to the level described by this foundation apprenticeship's knowledge and skills and not the often higher level of the mapped occupations. Coverage will be a blend of on and off-the-job



learning. More information can be found within the knowledge and skills coverage document on the Skills England website.

Assessment roadmap

There is no stipulated order of assessment methods. Apprentices may be assessed at appropriate points (or milestones) throughout their foundation apprenticeship. This will be agreed between the apprentice, provider and/or employer.

If the knowledge and skills mapped to AO1 are required to access the workplace, this assessment should happen early in the programme.

Highfield's approach to assessing this standard is:

- Knowledge Test (AO1 Knowledge statements)
- Question and Answer (AO1 Skill statements)
- Practical Assessment Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) (AO2/AO3)

In order to take the assessments, the apprentice must be registered with Highfield.

If you have any questions regarding these assessment components, please contact your Highfield customer engagement team.

Assessor and internal quality assurance (IQA) guidance

Assessors

Assessors for this apprenticeship **must** meet the following:

- have knowledge of the subject. Examples to demonstrate subject knowledge include, but are not limited to:
 - a current CV detailing sector experience
 - an up-to-date record of continuous professional development relevant to the sector
 - holding a qualification at the same level or above as the apprenticeship being assessed
- possess or be working towards a recognised assessor qualification. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement
 - A1 Assess Candidate Performance Using a Range of Methods and A2 Assessing Candidates' Performance through Observation
 - D32 Assess Learner Performance and D33 Assess Learner Using Different Sources of Evidence



IQA

Internal quality assurers for this apprenticeship **must** meet the following:

- have knowledge of the subject. Examples to demonstrate subject knowledge include, but are not limited to:
 - o a current CV detailing sector experience
 - an up-to-date record of continuous professional development relevant to the sector
 - holding a qualification at the same level or above as the apprenticeship being assessed
- possess or be working towards a recognised internal quality assurance qualification. For example:
 - Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (RQF)
 - Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (RQF)
 - D34 or V1 Verifier Awards

It is **recommended** that IQAs hold an assessing qualification.

Continuing professional development (CPD)

It is recommended that staff assessing and quality assuring this apprenticeship are supported to maintain up-to-date sector knowledge, including best practices and relevant legislative changes. CPD records can provide clear evidence of this practice.

Countersigning

While it is a minimum requirement for centres to have the appropriately qualified workforce in place, it is understood that centres may have new staff who are working towards those requirements. During this period, centres are required to have a robust countersigning strategy in place that supports and validates unqualified assessment and quality assurance decisions until the point where they meet the requirements as detailed above.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)

Where AI is used as part of the apprentice's day-to-day work and forms part of a project report, presentation or artefact, it should be referenced as such within the work.



Where AI has been used as part of a portfolio, it should be fully referenced within it.

AI must not be used to produce the report or portfolio.



Gateway to completion

Gateway to completion requirements

After apprentices have undertaken their assessment, employers and providers will need to complete the gateway to completion confirming the following:

- minimum duration has been met in line with the assessment plan.
- employability skills and behaviours have been suitably demonstrated. The employer is responsible for verifying that each employability skills and behaviour statement has been suitably demonstrated by the apprentice over the course of the programme. EB6 does not need to be confirmed by the employer but should form a key element of the apprentice's off-the-job training package.
- functional skills completed.
 the apprentice must have achieved level 1 English and maths. The requirements for English and maths are mandatory for all apprentices aged between 16-18 at the start of their apprenticeship training. The requirements for English and maths are optional for apprentices aged 19 and over at the start of their apprenticeship training.

The gateway to completion must be completed through the Highfield Assessment Hub.

If you require any support completing this section, please contact your customer engagement team at Highfield Assessment.



The Health and Social Care foundation apprenticeship standard

Below are the assessment outcomes from the assessment plan. Learning and assessment will be based upon the knowledge and skills statements and the associated assessment outcomes are used to assess and grade the apprentice within each assessment method.

(*) Knowledge and skills statements which offer opportunities to develop functional skills English and maths are identified with an asterisk.

AO1- Legislation, poli	cies and codes of conduct
Knowledge Test,	Question and Answer
Assessm	nent outcome
	es, and codes of conduct necessary to protect individuals and meet health and are standards.
Knowledge Amplification	
K4 Fundamental principles of a duty of care.	Duty of care
	 A legal and ethical obligation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of
	individuals under your care. It means acting in the best interests of
	individuals, avoiding acts or omissions that could cause harm.
K5 Fundamental principles of adult safeguarding and how to report a	Adult safeguarding
safeguarding concern.	 Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and
	neglect. This includes identifying signs of abuse and following
	procedures to report concerns.
	Safeguarding concern
	 Any suspicion, allegation or indication that an individual may be at
	risk of harm, abuse or neglect.
	 Staff should know how to recognise these concerns and follow
	correct procedures to report them promptly and appropriately to



	safeguarding leads or external authorities such as the local
	authority safeguarding team or police.
K8 Fundamental principles of infection prevention and control. *	Infection prevention and control
	 Measures and practices used to reduce the risk of spreading
	infections. Includes:
	o hand hygiene
	 use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
	 cleaning protocols
	 managing exposure risks, for example, covering wounds
K14 Principles of safe moving and handling of equipment and other	Safe moving and handling
objects and assistance of individuals.	The safe use of techniques and equipment to move individuals or
	items, reducing the risk of injury to both the worker and the
	individual receiving care.
	Equipment and other objects
	 Items used to support care or daily tasks, such as:
	o hoists
	 wheelchairs
	 medical devices, for example, monitoring equipment
	o kitchen utensils
	These must be:
	 handled correctly
	 stored correctly
	 maintained correctly
Skills	Amplification
S3 Work in partnership with others to help to keep individuals safe.	Others
	Colleagues



S6 Follow infection prevention and control precautions to protect yourself and others in the workplace. *	 Families Other health professionals Infection prevention and control precautions Hand hygiene Personal protective equipment (PPE)
	 Safe use of equipment Sharps safety
S11 Move and handle equipment or other items safely and assist	Move and handle
individuals.	The safe use of techniques and equipment to move individuals or
	items, reducing the risk of injury to both the worker and the
	individual receiving care.
	Equipment and other items
	Items used to support care or daily tasks, such as:
	o hoists
	o wheelchairs
	 medical devices, for example, monitoring equipment
	o kitchen utensils
	These must be:
	o handled correctly
	o stored correctly
	 maintained correctly



	t - Portfolio of Evidence
	ent outcome
Knowledge	d high-quality care and support that meets diverse individual needs. Amplification
K3 The importance of equality, diversity and inclusion and human rights.	Equality, diversity and inclusion
3	Ensuring fair treatment and opportunity for all, in line with the
	Equality Act, which protects people from discrimination based on:
	o age
	o disability
	o gender reassignment
	 marriage and civil partnership
	 pregnancy and maternity
	o race
	o religion or belief
	 sexual orientation
	 sex (biologically male or female)
	Embracing differences in culture and ethnicity
	Ensuring no one is discriminated against
	Human rights
	Human rights (Human Rights Act) are the basic freedoms and
	protections that every person is entitled to, simply by being
	human. Key rights relevant to health and social care include:
	 the right to life - providing safe care, protecting from harm or
	neglect



K10 Fundamental principles of health promotion and illness prevention to support positive lifestyle choices . *	Health promotion and illness prevention
	 Access to mental health services Emotional relates to feelings, mood and social interactions Support groups
	Mental covers cognitive and psychological aspects
	Mobility and exercise
	 Physical includes bodily health
needs that individuals may have.	These refer to the holistic aspects of health
K7 Fundamental mental health, physical health and emotional wellbeing	Mental, physical and emotional wellbeing needs
	wellbeing
	and autonomy as possible, while ensuring their safety and
	 Supporting people to live their lives with as much control, choice
	Maximise an individual's independence
•	Values include dignity, respect, independence, privacy and choice.
independence. *	An approach that places the individual at the centre of their care.
K6 Fundamental person-centred values to maximise an individual's	Person-centred values
	regardless of age, sex (biologically male or female), disability, race, religion or other status
	o the right to non-discrimination - treating all individuals equally,
	confidentiality, personal information and autonomy
	 the right to respect for private and family life - protecting
	movement, with lawful procedures if restrictions are needed
	 the right to liberty - supporting freedom of choice and
	ensuring dignity, privacy and respectful care
	 the right to be free from inhuman or degrading treatment -



	Encouraging healthy behaviours such as exercise, balanced
	nutrition and smoking cessation. It also involves screening,
	education and support to reduce the risk of illness.
	Positive lifestyle choices
	Everyday decisions and behaviours that help maintain or improve
	health and wellbeing, including:
	o good nutrition
	o sleep
	 hydration
	 limiting alcohol
	 avoiding smoking or drugs
	 staying active
	 maintaining social relationship
K12 Common health conditions and routine interventions and knowing	Common health conditions
when and to whom to escalate for action .	 Conditions frequently encountered in care settings, such as
	diabetes, dementia, arthritis or respiratory illnesses.
	Routine interventions
	Routine interventions may include:
	 medication management
	 checking blood pressure
	 dressing wounds or supporting with mobility aids
	 monitoring and promoting adherence to care plans.
	Escalate for action
	The process of reporting concerns when a person's condition
	worsens or deviates from expected norms. This may involve



K13 Techniques and sources of support to help develop personal resilience when working in a health or social care setting.	alerting a nurse, supervisor, GP or emergency services depending on urgency. Personal resilience The ability to recover from challenges and maintain emotional strength and wellbeing. Techniques may include stress
CL:UL-	management, reflection, peer support and maintaining work-life balance.
Skills	Amplification
S2 Act in the best interest of individuals to ensure they do not come to harm.	 Putting the individual first Involving them in decision-making where possible Balancing safety with rights
S4 Support individuals using person centred values. *	 Person-centred values An approach that places the individual at the centre of their care. Values include dignity, respect, independence, privacy and choice.
S5 Adapt your approach when providing care and support to meet the needs of the individual.	Adapt your approach The ability to be flexible and change your approach based on: preferences and routines cultural and religious needs abilities health conditions communication styles emotional needs
S8 Follow infection prevention and control precautions to protect yourself and others in the workplace. *	Infection prevention and control precautions Hand hygiene Personal protective equipment (PPE) Safe use of equipment



	Sharps safety
S10 Develop personal resilience when working in a health or social care	Personal resilience
setting.	The ability to recover from challenges and maintain emotional
	strength and wellbeing. Techniques may include:
	 stress management
	o reflection
	o peer support
	o maintaining work-life balance

AO3- The wider health	and social care system	
Practical Assessment	- Portfolio of Evidence	
Assessmer	nt outcome	
_	al care system including basic food hygiene and preparation, using digital and the career opportunities available.	
Knowledge	wledge Amplification	
K1 Introduction to the health and social care sectors , and how the sectors link together.	 Health and social care sectors These include services that are linked through joint care plans, referrals and multi-disciplinary teams such as: Hospitals GP practices Care homes Domiciliary care 	
K2 Career progression opportunities. *	Career progression opportunities • Possible pathways such as:	



	o support worker
	o senior carer
	o care coordinator
	o nurse
	o manager
K9 Developments in digital working and professional boundaries when	Digital working and professional boundaries
using technology. *	 Use of digital tools such as electronic records, remote monitoring,
	and communication platforms. Maintaining professional
	boundaries means ensuring confidentiality, appropriate use of
	technology and respectful communication.
K11 Basic food hygiene and preparation methods. *	Food hygiene and preparation
	 Practices such as proper storage, preparation, cooking and serving
	of food to prevent contamination and promote safety, including
	temperature control and cross-contamination prevention.
	 Core techniques such as washing hands and surfaces, separating
	raw and cooked foods, cooking to safe temperatures, proper
	storage, using clean utensils and checking use-by dates — all of
	which are vital to avoid foodborne illness and meet care
	standards.
Skills	Amplification
S1 Explore career progression opportunities within the health and social	Career progression opportunities
care sectors. *	Possible pathways include:
	o support worker
	o senior carer
	o care coordinator
	o nurse
	U Hulse



	o manager
S7 Use digital systems and technology in the workplace. *	Digital systems
	 Software and platforms used in health and social care settings,
	such as:
	o electronic care plans
	 medication management systems
	 incident reporting tools
	 scheduling software
	o communication platforms
S9 Apply basic food hygiene and preparation methods. *	Food hygiene and preparation
	 Practices such as proper storage, preparation, cooking and serving
	of food to prevent contamination and promote safety, including
	temperature control and cross-contamination prevention.
	 Core techniques such as washing hands and surfaces, separating
	raw and cooked foods, cooking to safe temperatures, proper
	storage, using clean utensils and checking use-by dates — all of
	which are vital to avoid foodborne illness and meet care
1	standards.



Employability skills and behaviours

Behaviours

EB1: Communicate and share information using verbal, non-verbal, written and digital methods.

EB2: Act in a professional manner including good time keeping and conduct.

EB3: Apply new learning and feedback to everyday practice.

EB4: Complete own work tasks and ask for help when needed.

EB5: Work with colleagues to contribute to team outcomes.

EB6: Seek ways to manage own financial, health and wellbeing needs using available resources.

EB7: Overcome challenges and adapt to changes at work.

EB8: Work in line with health, safety and environmental requirements.

Behaviours must be confirmed by the employer and confirmed on the gateway to completion section in the Highfield Assessment Hub.



EB6 does not need to be confirmed by the employer but should form a key element of the apprentice's off-the-job training package.



Assessing AO1 - knowledge test and question and answer

Knowledge test

The test consists of **20 questions** including multiple-choice questions and will last **60 minutes**. The **pass** mark is 12 out of 20.

The multiple-choice test may be delivered online or paper-based and should be taken in controlled conditions in line with Highfield's invigilation policy. The test is closed-book which means that the apprentice cannot refer to reference books or materials. The test must be marked by Highfield.

The knowledge test will cover knowledge statements within AO1 as stipulated in this specification.

In each paper, questions will cover each of the knowledge statements, however, not every aspect of every area will be covered in every test.

Question and answer

There will be a minimum of **3 questions** asked by an assessor in **30 minutes**.

The question and answer will assess the skill statements within AO1 as stipulated in this specification.

The question and answer may be delivered online or in person and should be taken in controlled conditions in line with Highfield's invigilation policy.

The questions can be asked by the provider and the answers recorded and submitted to Highfield. Alternatively, the questions can be asked by a Highfield Assessor. In both cases the responses will be marked by Highfield. Further guidance can be found in the Highfield Support Pack.

Before the assessment

Employers/providers should:

- brief the apprentice on the areas that will be assessed by the knowledge test and question and answer.
- in readiness for the assessment, set the apprentice a mock knowledge test and question and answer. A mock knowledge test and questions are available to download from the Highfield Assessment website. The mock tests are available as paper-based tests and also on the mock e-assessment system.



Grading the knowledge test and question and answer assessment

Apprentices will be marked against statements included in the tables on the following pages.

- To achieve a pass, apprentices must achieve all of the knowledge and skills statements
- Unsuccessful apprentices will have not achieved all of the knowledge and skills statements

Knowledge test criteria

K4: Fundamental principles of a duty of care.

K5: Fundamental principles of adult safeguarding and how to report a safeguarding concern.

K8: Fundamental principles of infection prevention and control. *

K14: Principles of safe moving and handling of equipment and other objects and assistance of individuals.

Question and answer criteria

S3: Work in partnership with others to help to keep individuals safe.

S6: Follow infection prevention and control precautions to protect yourself and others in the workplace. *

\$11: Move and handle equipment or other items safely and assist individuals.



Assessing AO2 and AO3 – portfolio of evidence

Portfolio of evidence

The apprentice must compile a portfolio of evidence that is mapped against the knowledge and skills (KSs) assessed by a portfolio of evidence.

Evidence may be used to demonstrate more than one knowledge and skill as a qualitative approach is suggested as opposed to a quantitative approach.

Evidence sources for the portfolio may include:

- work-based observation
- expert witness testimonies
- written report of a case-based discussion
- written report of supporting an intervention
- clinical supervision reflection
- evidence of ongoing professional development
- reflective accounts, countersigned by a manager

This is not a definitive list and other evidence sources are possible.

The portfolio can include reflective accounts and employer contributions should focus on direct observation of performance (for example, witness statements) rather than opinions.

Expert witness testimonies can be completed where observations cannot be conducted due to:

- logistical and operational barriers
- confidentiality and privacy restrictions
- health and safety concerns

Expert witness testimonies must be completed by an individual with:

- direct knowledge of the subject area
- clear understanding of the assessment criteria

The portfolio must be compiled alongside a portfolio matrix. This can be downloaded from our website. The portfolio matrix must be fully completed including a declaration by the apprentice to confirm that the portfolio is valid and attributable to the apprentice.



Before the assessment

Employers/providers should:

- ensure the apprentice knows which areas will be assessed (outlined on the following pages)
- ensure the apprentice is aware of evidence permitted to form part of the portfolio of evidence

Grading the practical assessment

Apprentices will be marked against the statements included in the tables on the following pages. The portfolio of evidence can be marked by Highfield or the provider.

- To achieve a pass, apprentices must achieve all of the knowledge and skills statements
- Unsuccessful apprentices will not have achieved all of the knowledge and skills statements

Portfolio of evidence

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

- **K1:** Introduction to the health and social care sectors, and how the sectors link together.
- **K2:** Career progression opportunities. *
- **K3:** The importance of equality, diversity and inclusion and human rights.
- K6: Fundamental person-centred values to maximise an individual's independence. *
- **K7:** Fundamental mental health, physical health and emotional wellbeing needs that individuals may have.
- **K9:** Developments in digital working and professional boundaries when using technology.
- **K10:** Fundamental principles of health promotion and illness prevention to support positive lifestyle choices. *
- K11: Basic food hygiene and preparation methods. *
- **K12:** Common health conditions and routine interventions and knowing when and to whom to escalate for action.
- **K13:** Techniques and sources of support to help develop personal resilience when working in a health or social care setting.
- S1: Explore career progression opportunities within the health and social care sectors. *
- **S2:** Act in the best interest of individuals to ensure they do not come to harm.
- **S4:** Support individuals using person centred values. *



Portfolio of evidence

To pass, the following must be evidenced.

S5: Adapt your approach when providing care and support to meet the needs of the individual.

S7: Use digital systems and technology in the workplace. *

S8: Support individuals with positive lifestyle choices to promote health and wellbeing. *

S9: Apply basic food hygiene and preparation methods

\$10: Develop personal resilience when working in a health or social care setting.

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Grading

The apprenticeship is graded pass or fail.

To achieve a pass, the apprentice is required to pass each of the assessment methods.

The overall grade for the apprentice is determined using the matrix below.

Knowledge test	Question and answer	Portfolio of evidence	Overall grade awarded
Fail any of the assessment methods			Fail
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Reattempt information

If a reattempt is required for Highfield marked methods, please call the Highfield scheduling team to arrange the reattempt.

If you have any questions, please contact the Highfield customer engagement team or refer to the Highfield Support Pack.

