



# **Course Description — Career in Social Care: An Introduction**

**1 credit at SCQF level 5**

**Code: GV39 45**

This document includes background information on the development of this award; its aims; course content; course delivery and assessment.

# Development of the award

The Scottish Government has significantly invested in the 'Introduction to a Career in Social Care' course to support the recruitment and retention of social care workers.

A team of writers, vetters and digital technologists from Scotland's College Development Network (CDN) consulted widely, designed and produced the course and learning materials. It provides an engaging and interactive online learning experience of around 60 hours, with learners choosing to do the course at times convenient to them. The course is located on the college's virtual learning environment and is monitored by a college course tutor who can view and respond to the progress being made by the learner.

In phase one of the course development, formative assessment through quizzes and other activities have featured consistently throughout the course. Learners who complete this nationally recognised course are provided with a course completion certificate that is supported by College Development Network and the Scottish Government.

In phase two of the course development the modules have been distilled into two stand-alone SQA units complete with summative assessment. Successful achievement of both units will result in the achievement of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Career in Social Care: An Introduction award.

For some learners a course completion certificate may be the end goal and this route will remain open.

## Aims of the award

It provides an excellent introduction to a career in care and meets the needs of induction programmes to these careers. It is also useful as a refresher and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for more experienced staff. Successful achievement of the award provides SQA certification and should enhance employability and career prospects.

## Course content

| Unit code | Unit title                  | SCQF level | SCQF credits |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| J7M8 45   | Social Care: The Essentials | 5          | 0.5          |
| J7M9 45   | Social Care: Best Practice  | 5          | 0.5          |

## **Social Care: The Essentials**

This unit will develop insight in learners who are new to social care, giving them realistic expectations that will inform their career decisions. As they progress through the unit they will develop a deeper understanding of their suitability and potential role in the sector. The unit provides a good foundation for successful applications and interviews for employment within social care.

## **Social Care: Best Practice**

The learner will develop an awareness that social care is a regulated and professional occupation where standards of care are clearly defined and measures are in place to ensure that they are met. They will learn about the legal and professional responsibilities of social care workers and the role of the Scottish Social Services Council and the Care Inspectorate. They will consolidate learning from Unit 1, Social Care: The Essentials when they explore how enablement and digitally enabled care support a person-centred approach to care where the individual's human rights and self-determination are fully supported.

## **Course delivery and assessment**

The online course is available to colleges through College Development Network. The online learning materials for Unit 1, Social Care: The Essentials correspond to the following modules of the online course, and hence summative assessment should be programmed on completion of Module 6.

- ◆ Module 1: What is Social Care?
- ◆ Module 4: Values.
- ◆ Module 5: Communication.
- ◆ Module 6: Teamwork.

Learning materials for Unit 2, Social Care: Best Practice correspond to the following modules of the online course, and hence summative assessment should be programmed on completion of Module 11.

- ◆ Module 7: Enablement.
- ◆ Module 8: Infection Control.
- ◆ Module 9: Duty of Care.
- ◆ Module 10: Safeguarding.
- ◆ Module 11: Digitally-enabled Care.

Each assessment is predominantly a multiple-choice paper, with a few restricted response questions that could be uploaded to a virtual learning environment, in which case centres are responsible for ensuring that they remain secure. Assessment conditions and marking guidelines are outlined in the assessment paper.