

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Health Care Policy

Unit code: DR3N 34

Unit purpose: This Unit will enable the candidate to demonstrate an understanding of current health care provision in respect of practice and usage and also enable the candidate to have an awareness of the current policies and legislation that apply in Health and Social Care.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Identify the role of health care professions in providing opportunities for individuals to achieve optimum health and recognise the importance of collaboration between care professions.
- 2 Describe the ways in which government policies and legislation can influence an individual's care needs.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Candidates should have good communication skills, both written and oral. These can be evidenced either by the achievement of nationally recognised qualifications for example Higher English or a qualification equivalent to SCQF level 6 or by the completion of a pre-course interview part of which could take the form of a written assignment. The skills to undertake this Unit could also be demonstrated through an employer's reference or the process of application and interview. In addition to this candidates should preferably have undertaken some work experience, paid or voluntary, in a health care setting.

Core skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of:

Communication at SCQF level 5
Problem Solving at SCQF level 5
Working with Others at SCQF level 5
Information Technology at SCQF level 5

in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

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Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: Assessment for this Unit could be an integrated case study which could take the form of a report of approximately 2,000 words.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Identify the role of care professions in providing opportunities for individuals to achieve optimum health and recognise the importance of collaboration between care professions

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Current structure of the NHS and Social Services in Scotland
- ◆ Current funding arrangements for care services
- ◆ The role of independent, statutory and voluntary services
- ◆ Care provision
- ◆ Assessment of needs at a macro level
- ◆ Assessment of needs at a micro level
- ◆ Assessment of needs at an individual level
- ◆ The service user and their contribution
- ◆ The importance of collaboration between care professions and services

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Demonstrate the role of care professions in providing opportunities for the individual to achieve optimum health. This can be shown by:
 - a brief description of an individual and an assessment of their care needs
 - a discussion about how different care professions could contribute to meet the care needs of the individual and the importance of collaboration between care professions
 - a care plan describing what has been put in place to allow the individual to achieve optimum health
 - an evaluation of the care plan including the process of implementing the care plan together with any amendments or suggestions for further collaboration

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Health Care Policy

- discussion on the interface of independent, statutory and voluntary organisations in shaping care provision (this discussion should be reflected in the report)
- identify within the report how care networks provide opportunities for health promotion

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for Outcome 1 and 2 is an integrated case study of no more than 2,000 words.

Outcome 2

Describe the ways in which government policies and legislation can influence individuals care needs

Knowledge and/or skills

Current legislation in relation to:

- ◆ Mental health
- ◆ Children
- ◆ Data protection
- ◆ Manual handling
- ◆ Health and safety
- ◆ Food handling
- ◆ Care practice
- ◆ Strategies for health promotion

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Demonstrate an awareness of how government legislation can influence an individual's health. This can be shown by:
 - a description of the current legislation that could influence the individual's care needs

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for Outcome 1 and 2 is an integrated case study of no more than 2,000 words.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DR3N 34
Unit title: Health Care Policy
Superclass category: PA
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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Health Care Policy

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

It is recommended that this Unit is delivered in the later part of the course, when candidates will have had the opportunity to have been on placement and be aware of the role of care professions and how care professions can work collaboratively to provide opportunities for the individual to achieve optimum health. The Unit will also enable candidates to be aware of government legislation and policies at local level and how these can influence the care needs of the individual.

Outcome 1

Candidates may benefit from some information relating to the characteristics of a democracy. The main factors of different political philosophies should be discussed. It would also be useful to provide candidates with an overview of the historical development of health care. This should be brief and is merely to set the current topic in context and to raise candidates' awareness of the issues that are relevant to the development of health policy. It is important that candidates understand that legislation and policy evolves and changes in response to the needs and wishes of the population (in a democracy).

It is essential that candidates are orientated to the current structure of the NHS and Social Services in Scotland and the funding arrangements for care services. Candidates should know how to access current information on legislation and to remain up to date with initiatives in relation to care in Scotland. It is essential to direct candidates to the Scottish Executive website to examine recent policy initiatives. The UK Government website and Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) are among useful websites that could be visited for current information.

Candidates should be able to access statistical information in relation to health issues and be aware of health targets and initiatives in relation to these issues.

Independent, statutory and voluntary services should be discussed, as should the role of informal carers. It is suggested that candidates investigate a range of services and recognise that there are different kinds of statutory, voluntary and independent services. The way in which these services are funded and organised should be discussed. Candidates should have some understanding of the role that welfare benefits play in relation to care. Candidates should be aware of the different role that each care service has to play and also that legislation underpins this care provision and the service interface.

Candidates should be aware that needs are assessed and planned for at community (macro) level. Local community care plans may be available for examination. Assessment of need at an individual (micro) level can then be discussed with consideration given to the service user and the contribution that they are able to make to the process.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Health Care Policy

There should be a general understanding of the need for networking so that effective care can be provided where and when it is needed.

Outcome 2

The emphasis of this Outcome should be on the way in which legislation and policy supports the work of the carer in terms of promoting health. Health should be defined as a 'resource' and also considered in terms of emotional, physical, cognitive and social health. An overview of how legislation and policy may have a universal application as in aspects of the Community Care Act or Patients Charter or be aimed at specific client groups, eg Mental Health (Scotland) Act or Children (Scotland) Act.

It is recommended that candidates should be aware of the main features of legislation and policy in relation to the following areas:

- ◆ strategies for health promotion
- ◆ health and safety
- ◆ manual handling
- ◆ data protection
- ◆ food handling
- ◆ care practice
- ◆ mental health
- ◆ children
- ◆ disability

The list is intended to indicate areas that should be considered but others can be added. Specific Acts or policy documents are not named to prevent advice becoming outdated due to ongoing political development and change. Candidates should be introduced to the most recent and relevant legislation in relation to the areas indicated. Candidates are expected to name particular pieces of legislation and policy and be aware of the main points and should be aware that legislation and policy has a health promoting purpose.

It is important that candidates appreciate that their own health is protected and promoted through legislation, eg Health and Safety Manual Handling Regulations.

The following resources are not exclusive and are for guidance only.

Websites

- ◆ www.nhs50.uk
- ◆ www.careandhealth.com
- ◆ www.nhs.uk
- ◆ www.show.scot.nhs.uk
- ◆ www.scotland.gov.uk

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Health Care Policy

Organisations

- ◆ Commission for the Regulation of Care
- ◆ Scottish Social Services Council
- ◆ Scottish Executive Health Department

Books

- ◆ Health and Health Care in Britain, Third Edition, Rob Baggot, Palgrave
- ◆ Care in Practice for Higher Still, Janet Miller, Hodder and Stoughton
- ◆ Health Policy in Britain, Christopher Ham, Palgrave
- ◆ Politics of Health, 2nd Edition, David Griffiths, Pulse Publications

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

See above.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of:

Communication at SCQF level 5
Problem Solving at SCQF level 5
Working with Others at SCQF level 5
Information Technology at SCQF level 5

in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Communication: will be evidenced via the candidate's work with individuals and groups as well as within written assignments.

Problem Solving: critical thinking, planning and organising, reviewing and evaluating will be evidenced through the candidates written work and through group and individual research and presentation.

Working with Others: will be evidenced through group presentations within the classroom activities.

Information Technology: will be evidenced through obtaining, collating and processing information and data.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Health Care Policy

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidates' evidence.

For further information and advice, please see *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030).

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on the SQA website **www.sqa.org.uk**.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Health Care Policy

This Unit will enable you to demonstrate a current awareness of current health care provision, the role of health care professions and the importance of these professions working collaboratively to ensure that the individual can achieve optimum health. You will also learn an awareness of current legislation and how this can influence an individual's needs.

The assessment for this Unit will be a case study in the form of a report, which should not exceed 2,000 words.

On completion of this Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ identify the role of care professions providing opportunities for individuals to achieve optimum health and recognise the importance of collaboration between care professions
- ◆ describe the ways in which government policies and legislation can influence an individual's care needs