



Course Description — Career in Social Care: An Introduction

1 credit at SCQF level 5

Code: GV39 45

Version: 03 (September 2024)

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. Since then, SQA have further developed the material to enable this course to become an accredited assessment for use in Centres, either as part of an induction programme, as part of the recruitment process, or to raise awareness of a career in social care for prospective employees.

For some learners a course completion certificate may be the end goal. However, there is the opportunity to achieve a fully accredited SQA Certificate after assessment.

Aims of the award

Course content

Unit code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credits
J8C7 45	Social Care: The Essentials	5	0.5
J8C8 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, the role of the Scottish Social Services Council and the Care Inspectorate. They will consolidate learning from Unit 1, Social Care: The Essentials where they explore how enablement and digitally enabled care support a person-centred approach to care where individuals' human rights and self-determination are fully supported.

Course delivery and assessment

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 available. Please refer to guidance within the assessment documents on the criteria for passing the course.

Centres may use existing resources or develop new materials best suited to the target audience. Teaching must cover all topics within the units as a minimum.

Internal verification is required if offered as an Accredited training programme and Centres should refer to the Internal Verification Toolkit for guidance on best practice.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up-to-date qualification structure.

Version number	Description	Date
03	Updated guidance document in line with unit recode.	September 2024
02	J8C7 45 Social Care: The Essentials has replaced J7M8 45 Social Care: The Essentials which finishes on 31/07/2024. J8C8 45 Social Care: Best Practice has replaced J7M9 45 Social Care: Best Practice which finishes on 31/07/2024.	08/07/24

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.