

# Getting into social work and care

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Social Work and Care Careers



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- Overview of the social care sector
- Job roles and where people work
- Where to look for work
- Training routes
- Funding for the social work degree







# The social care sector

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- Wider social care workforce estimate - 1.6 million
- 76 300 qualified social workers
- Almost 2/3 work in services for older people
- Approx 80% are female
- Local authorities employ 1/3 of workforce directly
- 38 000+ employers
- Estimated 5million unpaid carers
- Estimated 2million users of services at any one time



# Why work in social care?

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- Job satisfaction
- Good training
- Good prospects
- Make a difference
- Variety
- Flexibility



# Service sectors:

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- Mental health
- Learning difficulties
- Physical and sensory impairment
- Homelessness



## Service sectors cont:

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- Older people
- Substance and drug misuse
- HIV / Aids
- Children and families



# Where can I work?

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- In a person's home
- Residential homes
- Nursing homes
- Day care centres
- Supported / sheltered housing
- In the community
- In hospitals



# Employers

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- Local authorities
- NHS
- Voluntary organisations
- Private sector
- Individual service user



# Skills required

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- Interest in client group
- Talking / relating to people
- Awareness – eye for detail
- Asking probing questions
- Confidence / assertiveness
- Negotiating
- Team work inc. building relationships with other professionals
- Flexibility / adaptability
- IT literate



# Examples of jobs in social care

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- Care assistant
- Dual diagnosis support worker
- Community rehabilitation officer
- Home school support worker
- Personal assistant
- Neighbourhood carer and community enabler
- Housing and community support worker
- Social care and health support worker





# Courses / training

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- 14 –19 Diploma in Society, Health and Development
- Apprenticeships in social care or child care
- Employment + training NVQs
- BTEC First/National Diploma in Care
- HNDs
- Foundation Degrees :
  - Early Years
  - Health and Social Care
  - Community Studies
- Social Work Degree



# Related degrees

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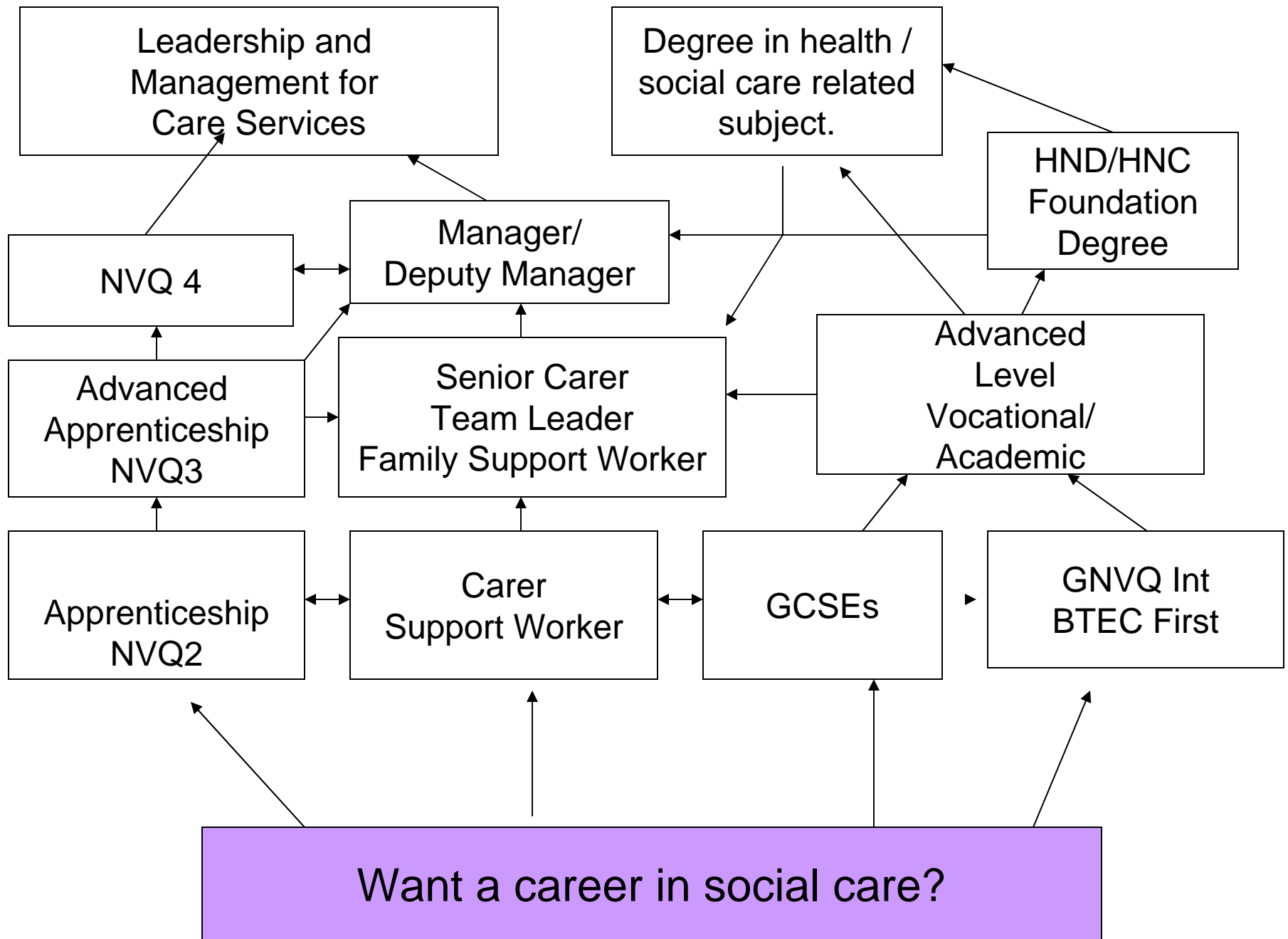
- Sociology
- Social Policy / Administration
- Psychology
- Law
- Early Childcare Studies
- Occupational Therapy
- Mental Health Nursing
- Health and Social Care
- Community Studies



# Career pathways?

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- Career paths are no longer predictable straight lines leading from one grade to the next.
- Major change in working practices – working across organisational boundaries
- New roles
- Diverse sector – approx 38 000 different employers in social care and approx 650 employers within the NHS





# Where are jobs advertised?

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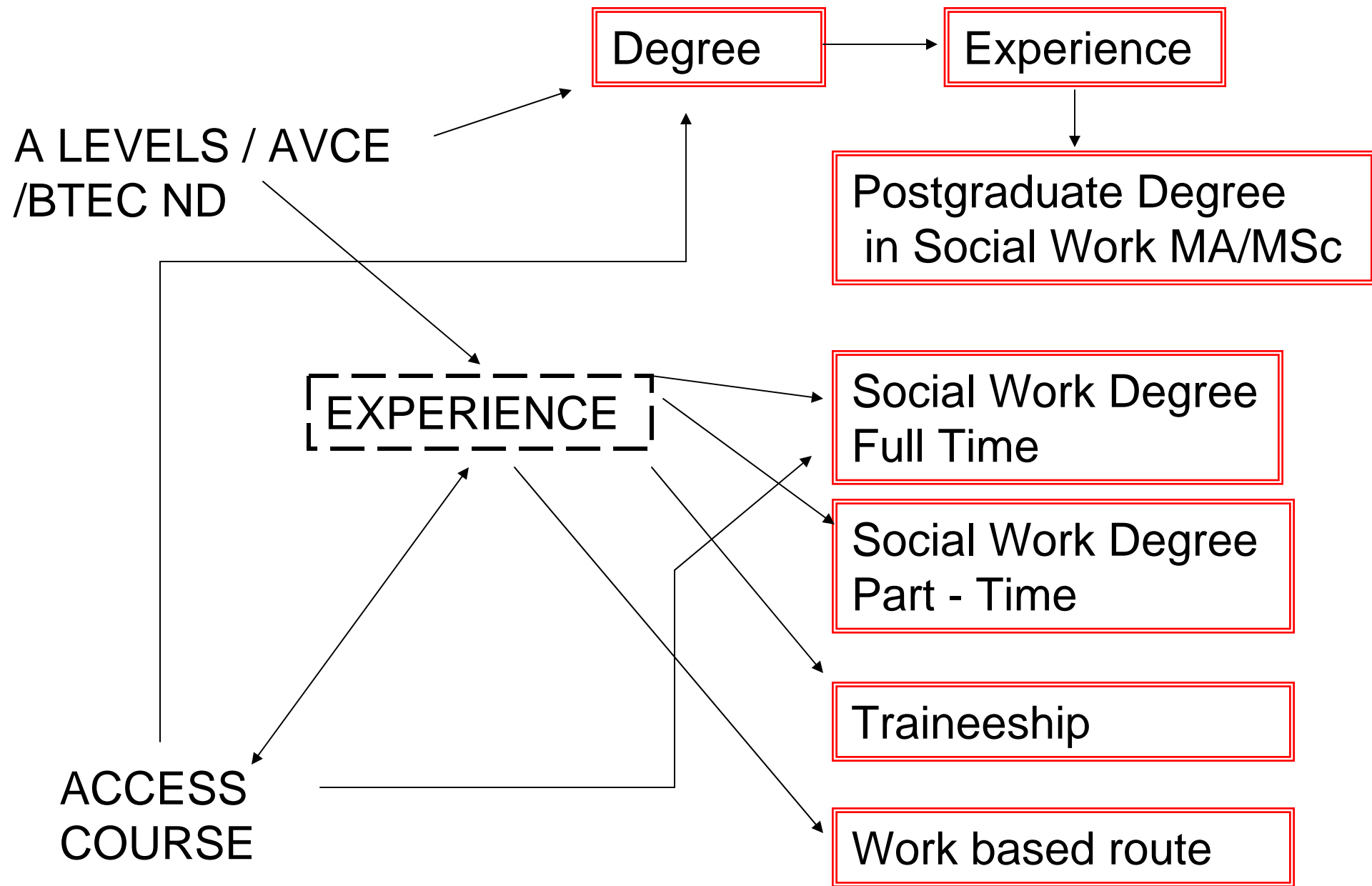
- Job Centre Plus
- Your local newspaper
- Specialist care agencies
- Your local council's website
- Employers' websites
- Recruitment websites
- Community Care magazine
- National newspapers



# The qualification for social work

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- BA or BSc in Social Work
- BSc in Learning Disability Nursing and Social Work
- BSc Mental Health Nursing and Social Work
- MA or MSc in Social Work
- **MUST** be approved by the General Social Care Council (GSCC)





# Funding information

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Undergraduate full time courses 2009/10

- £4,575 p.a.– outside London
- £4,975 p.a.– inside London
- Can use towards fees if you wish
- Includes £575 contribution for travel to placements
- Can also apply for student loan etc.



# Funding cont.

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Postgraduate full time courses 2009/10

- Up to £3,390 paid to HEI towards fee.

Non means tested bursary:

- £3362.50 p.a. – outside London
- £3762.50 p.a. – inside London
- Includes £862.50 contribution for travel to placements

Additional means tested bursary:

- Up to £2,608 p.a. – outside London
- Up to £4026 p.a. – inside London



# Useful websites

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- [www.gsc.org.uk](http://www.gsc.org.uk)
- [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students)
- [www.directgov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.directgov.uk/studentfinance)
- [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)
- [www.skillsforcare.org.uk](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk)
- <http://www.intute.ac.uk/>
- <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/>
- [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk)



# Social Work and Care Careers

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