

Compare roles in health

Not sure where to start with the hundreds of NHS careers? Use our compare roles section to get bite-size information on the entry requirements and training, pay and conditions, prospects and skills needed of up to three roles. If there is something that you think you could do, then get more in-depth information on the role.

Don't forget, you can also save your role comparisons by registering with us.

- **Health visitor** ^[1]

Health visitors are specialist community public health nurses, (SCPHN) registered midwives or nurses.

Training and qualifications required

In order to work as a health visitor, you must first qualify and register as a nurse or midwife and will need to take an approved programme in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing or Health Visiting (SCPHN - HV). Entry requirements are flexible and no minimum period of post-registration experience is required.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. NHS staff usually work 37.5 hours per week but terms and conditions for non-NHS employers and contractors vary. Health visitors start at band 6 but it's possible to move up the bands with more experience.

Desirable skills and values

You need to be able to work independently for most of your time, although you will work as part of a team of other healthcare staff. You'll be responsible for people with a range of needs, so being highly organised, flexible and able to prioritise effectively is vital. You should also be highly observant, able to assess a family's needs, and take responsibility for determining the best course of action.

Prospects

There are opportunities to go into service management or clinical academic research. You may want to become a community matron and lead a team of health visitors and other nurses. Also, the NHS Leadership Academy runs a number of programmes to support nurses into leadership roles.

Related roles

- [Public health nurse](#) [2]
- [Adult nurse](#) [3]
- [Mental health nurse](#) [4]
- [Learning disability nurse](#) [5]

• [Public health nurse](#) [2]

Public health nurses are qualified and registered nurses or midwives who have then chosen to gain experience or undertake training to specialise in areas such as health protection or sexual health.

Training and qualifications required

Only trained and registered nurses can apply for a role as a public health nurse. Entry criteria vary between employers and specific positions, but experience or further qualifications in community nursing, health visiting, occupational health, infection prevention and control or practice nursing may be an advantage.

Expected working hours and salary range

Public health nurses working for the NHS will usually work at around bands 6-7 of Agenda for Change (AfC) or equivalent local authority pay scales and work standard hours of 37.5 per week. There may be exceptions to this depending on the nature of the role, for example evening and weekend work to increase access to services.

Desirable skills and values

As a public health nurse, you'll be passionate about public health. You'll have excellent communication skills, project management and analytical skills. You'll be able to work across multi-agency or multi-disciplinary settings to engage, develop and sustain networks and partnerships. You'll be a good problem solver and have an ability to respond to sudden unexpected demands.

Prospects

You might decide to follow an academic career pathway, working in higher education or research, or you might decide to take up a senior practitioner or managerial role. You may also choose to qualify as a specialist community public health nurse (SCPHN).

Related roles

- [Adult nurse](#) [3]
- [Occupational health nurse](#) [6]
- [Learning disability nurse](#) [5]
- [Mental health nurse](#) [4]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor> [2]

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-nurse> [3]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/adult-nurse> [4]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/mental-health-nurse> [5]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/learning-disability-nurse> [6]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/occupational-health-nurse>