

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.

• **Counselling psychologist** ^[1]

Counselling psychologists treat people by examining their experiences and exploring underlying issues.

Training and qualifications required

You'll need an honours degree in psychology to become a member of the Graduate Member of the British Psychological Society which allows you to apply for post graduate courses in counselling psychology.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. Once they have completed their training, counselling psychologists will be paid at band 7. Counselling psychologists in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

On a daily basis you will use a broad range of skills, including a thorough knowledge of psychological theory and practice, an interest in how people think and behave and the ability to relate to a wide range of people including patients and colleagues. You'll need to be a patient, sympathetic and the ability to work on your own and in consultation with others.

Prospects

Some psychologists decide to go into management and lead a team of professionals. With further experience you could qualify for the Register of Psychologists Specialising in psychotherapy and become a clinical supervisor. You could decide to go into clinical academic research to support the development of the profession, advocacy or social justice. You could also apply for a trainee high intensity therapist position, enabling you to work under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies initiative.

Related roles

- [High intensity therapist](#) ^[2]
- [Psychological wellbeing practitioner](#) ^[3]
- [Adult psychotherapist](#) ^[4]
- [Clinical psychologist](#) ^[5]

• [School nurse](#) ^[6]

School nurses are specialist community public health nurses (SCPHN) who work with school-aged children and young people and their families to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities.

Training and qualifications required

To train as a school nurse, you must first qualify and register as a nurse or midwife. You may then take an approved programme in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN). Nurses or midwives from any branch of nursing can enter the programme at any stage as long as they demonstrate that they can meet the academic requirements.

Expected working hours and salary range

Jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. School nursing jobs usually start at band 6 but there is opportunity to move up the bands with experience. School nurses in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week. School nurses are increasingly being employed by local authorities where terms and conditions can vary.

Desirable skills and values

You'll need to be well organised, confident and able to cope with potentially challenging situations, such as working with a homeless family or in a refuge. You should 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 flexible and being able to prioritise effectively is vital.

Prospects

You might choose to work towards senior school nursing or managerial roles, or carry out research and possibly become a lecturer in nursing or a related subject. You may also choose to qualify as a specialist community public health nurse (SCPHN).

Related roles

- [Children's nurse](#) ^[7]
- [Mental health nurse](#) ^[8]
- [Health visitor](#) ^[9]
- [Learning disability nurse](#) ^[10]

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Links

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