



# An introduction to health and social care

A broad, practical course about the nature of modern caring



## What does it cover?

This course provides a fascinating introduction to health and social care. Using real examples, it explores the nature of modern caring, the effects of technological, social and political change, and the shift to more flexible, inter-professional ways of working.

## Who should study this course?

Whether you are engaged in supporting, nursing or caring for others or simply have an interest in health and social care issues, this course is for you. A valuable qualification in its own right, it can also be used as a stepping stone to professional awards in nursing and health and social care, and is ideal preparation for further degree level study.

## How does it relate to practice?

*An introduction to health and social care* is designed to give students a broader and deeper understanding of the nature and context of care. It challenges assumptions that devalue care work - like the attitude that care is simple and instinctive. Students will examine the complexity of care and the relationships involved, focusing on identifying, managing and resolving dilemmas. They will consider the challenges of planning and organising care, including the development of appropriate systems, the provision of suitable locations and the involvement of service users.

The course also encourages reflexive learning and will help students develop their intellectual and study skills.

## What do students gain?

Students who pass this course will get a *Certificate in Health and Social Care* and 60 points at Higher Education Level 1, which they can count towards an Open University award like a diploma or degree.

Suitably placed students can also register for and complete an NVQ3 in Adult Care.

## How much studying is involved, and at what level?

Students will need to spend about 12 hours a week over a period of nine months to study the course. This will include some group tutorials and some online discussions as well as individual study time. The course is at Higher Education Level 1, which is similar to the first year of an undergraduate degree - so students will need appropriate academic experience and study skills.

## How is the course assessed?

There are six written assignments spread evenly across the course, and a three-hour exam at the end.

## What do people say about the course?

*'This course was brilliant! It satisfied the mixture of professionals, as well as lay people, in our tutorial group.'*

*'The course was excellent in helping us "return students" to rediscover and develop our skills.'*

*'The material helps you develop thoughts of your own. The people I work with have noticed a difference in me, and have said so!'*

## Find out more about *An introduction to health and social care (K101)*

You can find out more about the course approach and content by visiting [www.open.ac.uk/courses](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses) and typing K101 in the search engine. There is also a course 'taster' at [www.open.ac.uk/hsc/studytasters.htm](http://www.open.ac.uk/hsc/studytasters.htm) and further course content is available on the OpenLearn website: [openlearn.open.ac.uk](http://openlearn.open.ac.uk)



Unison and Pennine Care MH Trust are offering sponsored places on this course starting in October 2008

To find out more attend a briefing session:

North division  
24<sup>th</sup> July 12-1pm at Willows, Oldham

South Division  
12th August 12-1pm at Hyde  
Training dept.

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