Level 3 Social Prescribing Link Worker

The Social Prescribing Link Worker programme, delivered through the Level 3 Community Health and Wellbeing Worker apprenticeship standard, equips learners with the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to support individuals, communities and local health systems through personalised, community-based care. The programme aligns directly with NHS England's personalised care agenda and provides a nationally recognised, fully funded pathway for developing confident link workers who can address the wider determinants of health.

Learners will build the capability to work holistically with service users, helping to reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing by connecting people with the right support at the right time. The programme strengthens core competencies that can be applied across the NHS, while enabling learners to grow within their specific role and local context. Designed to reflect the NHS 10-Year Plan's shift toward community-focused, preventative and empowering care, the apprenticeship supports the delivery of the neighbourhood model and prepares learners to make a meaningful impact within integrated care teams.

Who's it for?

This apprenticeship is ideal for individuals working as Social Prescribing Link Workers or in similar roles that involve supporting people, groups or communities to improve health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and prevent ill health. It is suitable for learners employed across a wide range of settings, including Primary Care Networks, Integrated Care Boards, NHS Trusts, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations and local authorities. Learners should be in a role that enables them to apply their learning in practice and have access to appropriate workplace support throughout the programme.

Typical job roles for this apprenticeship include: Social Prescribing Link Worker, Care Navigator, Service Navigator, Community Connecter, Community Health Champion, and Health Trainer

Why use Buttercups

- Programmes designed and delivered by industry experts
- Dedicated Buttercups tutor, qualified in their specialist subject area
- Work-based and practical learning embedded into the apprentice's role
- 24/7 access to programme materials, enrichment resources, study support and specialist insight via our virtual learning platform
- Blended and flexible delivery to suit different learning styles
- No day release required – apprenticeship completed entirely from the workplace
- Progression pathways that can take you from entry level to specialist expert
- Dedicated Functional Skills support if required

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Programme overview

Apprenticeship standard: Community Health and Wellbeing Worker

Cost: £7,000

Duration: 15 months (inc. 3 months EPA)

Entry requirements

To be eligible for this programme, apprentices will need to:

- Be working as a Social Prescribing Link Worker, or comparable role
- Be aged 16 years or over
- Be employed for a minimum of 21 hours per week and be able to complete off-the-job training in line with funding rules, including attendance at online tutorials and workshops
- Meet minimum English and maths requirements (GCSE Grade C/4 or equivalent), confirmed through an online screening assessment
- Complete a declaration of good character or health

Prepare for the challenges of tomorrow

Get ahead of evolving workforce skills needs

Every Buttercups apprentice has access to BPP's exclusive Emerging Skills programme.

Comprised of four bespoke courses, the programme combines expertise from BPP, Microsoft and xUnlocked to give learners essential knowledge and skills in the rapidly emerging areas of AI, cyber security and sustainability.

- ✓ Available to all learners at no extra cost
- ✓ Accessible anytime, anywhere via our virtual learning platform
- ✓ Self-paced learning to fit into any busy schedule

xUnlocked

Programme contents

Generative AI Fundamentals (Four modules)

Developed by BPP's expert data scientists, this course offers an introduction to working with Generative AI effectively, safely and ethically.

Introduction to Sustainability (Six modules)

Developed in partnership with sustainability experts, xUnlocked, this course builds fundamental knowledge on sustainability and sustainable working practices.

Microsoft AI and Security Essentials (Seven modules)

This course begins with a core AI Essentials pathway, followed by a choice between AI Fundamentals or Security. Microsoft digital badges are awarded throughout, with the option to earn a recognised Microsoft Certification upon completion.
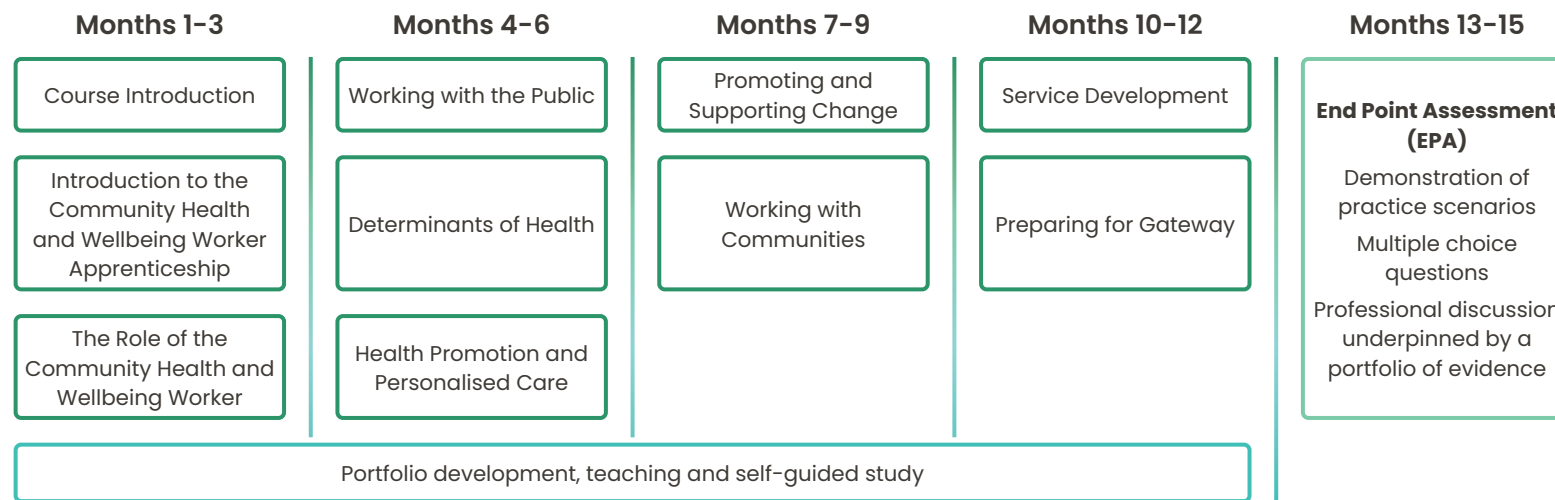
Cyber Security (Three modules)

Designed by BPP's cyber experts, this course provides a clear and practical introduction to the importance of cyber security, the most common attack techniques everyone should be aware of, and the fast-changing digital threat landscape.

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Delivery model

Online: flexible learning that fits busy schedules, with Virtual Classroom teaching sessions.

15-month programme (inc. EPA)

Months 1-3	Months 4-6	Months 7-9	Months 10-12	Months 13-15
Course Introduction	Working with the Public	Promoting and Supporting Change	Service Development	**End Point Assessment (EPA)**
Introduction to the Community Health and Wellbeing Worker Apprenticeship	Determinants of Health	Working with Communities	Preparing for Gateway	Demonstration of practice scenarios
The Role of the Community Health and Wellbeing Worker	Health Promotion and Personalised Care			Multiple choice questions
				Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence

Portfolio development, teaching and self-guided study

☐ Units   ☐ End Point Assessment

Programme units

Introduction to the Community Health and Wellbeing Worker Apprenticeship

Provides a foundation for learners beginning the Community Health and Wellbeing Worker apprenticeship standard.

- The purpose of the programme
- Structure of learning
- Expectations throughout their journey
- Roles and responsibilities
- Teaching and learning methods
- Effective use of the e-portfolio to evidence progress

By the end of the unit, learners will understand how to navigate the programme and identify their next steps to get started confidently.

Working with the Public

This unit focuses on safe, ethical and effective practice when working directly with the public.

- Understanding of confidentiality and consent
- Responsibilities for protecting individuals and communities
- Effective ways of working with communities, recognising diversity, promoting inclusion and supporting community engagement

By the end of the unit, learners will understand how to balance professional responsibilities with respectful, person-centred practice when supporting individuals and communities.

Health Promotion and Personalised Care

This unit focuses on developing communication and practical skills to promote good health and wellbeing.

- Effective communication approaches to support engagement
- Strategies for promoting positive health behaviours
- How to access, use and share appropriate information and resources
- Applying principles of evidence-based practice to health promotion activities
- Personalised and person-centred approaches to care
- The role of volunteers in supporting community health and wellbeing initiatives

This unit consolidates knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to effective health promotion practice.

The Role of the Community Health and Wellbeing Worker

Introduces learners to the responsibilities and professional expectations of the role.

- The role in practice
- Professional standards, personal conduct and ethical practice
- Working safely within role boundaries
- Managing caseloads
- Recognising risk and escalating concerns
- Introduction to public services
- Personalised care, evidence-based practice, Making Every Contact Count (MECC), service navigation and signposting

By the end of the unit, learners will have a clear understanding of their role within the wider health and care system.

Determinants of Health

This unit develops learners' understanding of health and wellbeing and factors that influence health outcomes.

- Defining health and wellbeing
- Examining health inequalities and analysing the underlying causes
- Methods for measuring population health and monitoring health at local and individual levels
- Barriers to health

By the end of this unit, learners will be able to understand and consider how determinants of health influence their role in improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

Promoting and Supporting Change

This unit develops learners' understanding of how to support individuals making positive and sustainable changes to their health and wellbeing.

- How behaviour change can be enabled and supported
- Key theories and models of behaviour change
- Practical tools and techniques
- Delivering effective, person-centred consultations
- The role of social prescribing in connecting individuals to appropriate community-based support

By the end of the unit, learners will be equipped to apply behaviour change principles confidently and appropriately.

Programme units

Working with Communities

This unit focuses on working effectively with communities to identify and respond to individual and community needs.

- Definitions of communities and how different structures, assets and networks influence health and wellbeing
- The role of social prescribing and community-based approaches
- Communicating information and engaging communities in a clear, inclusive and accessible way

By the end of the unit, learners will understand how to work collaboratively with communities to support health improvement and reduce inequalities.

Preparing for Gateway

This unit supports learners in preparing for Gateway and the End Point Assessment (EPA).

- Learner responsibilities, the assessment process and how to prepare effectively
- Requirements for Gateway, including readiness checks and evidence submission
- Structure and purpose of the EPA, outlining what to expect and how performance will be assessed

By the end of the unit, learners will feel confident and informed about the steps required to successfully complete Gateway and demonstrate competence against the apprenticeship standard.

Service Development

This unit introduces the principles and practice of developing, delivering and evaluating health and wellbeing services.

- How services are commissioned, designed and implemented to meet community needs
- Service delivery models, monitoring quality and outcomes
- Importance of evaluation and audit in demonstrating impact and driving improvement

By the end of the unit, learners will understand how health and wellbeing initiatives are planned, delivered and reviewed to ensure they are effective, sustainable and responsive to local needs.