

## Important Final Update on the Healthcare Science Apprenticeship Programme

Dear Colleagues

Apologies if you receive this email more than once, but the CSO and HCS Trailblazer Apprenticeship Group are keen to ensure that there is wide and comprehensive coverage of this update on the HCS Apprenticeship Trailblazer Apprenticeship programme. Please do forward it to other colleagues who may have an interest in apprenticeships, especially the Apprenticeship Leads in your trust.

I hope that you have all had a good and productive summer. This will be the last update from me in relation to the Healthcare Science (HCS) Apprenticeship programme as responsibility for the programme is now formally being taken on by the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS). The National School of Healthcare Science is establishing a dedicated area on its website at <http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/> which will provide on-going information about the HCS apprenticeship programme to employers and stakeholders. This will be in addition to that information available from the [Education and Skills Funding Agency](#). It is intended that employers and healthcare professionals will access the NSHCS website for information on apprenticeships. Mr Graham Wilson will be leading on HCS Apprenticeships on behalf of the NSHCS. His email contact address is: [Graham.Wilson@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:Graham.Wilson@hee.nhs.uk).

### September update

I am delighted to inform you that the Level 4 HCS Diploma qualification is now available and can be accessed at <http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/nvq-and-competence-based-qualifications/health-and-social-care/healthcare-science-l4.html>. The Diploma supports the Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Standard and is now available for use by employers and apprentices.

By way of ease of reference and to summarise the whole of the HCS Apprenticeship programme, there are now 3 HCS Apprenticeship Standards available and ready for delivery. The relevant links to the Standards and End-point Assessments are below. In addition, I have included the link to the Skills Agency **Healthcare Apprenticeships Standards On-line** [HASO] site which gives easy access to the Standards/EPAs as well as providing an Employer Briefing for the Levels 2 and 4 apprenticeships.

The published Standards and EPAs can be found at the links below.

#### **HCS Assistant (Level 2)**

**Standard and EPA** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standard-healthcare-science-assistant>

**Level 2 Diploma** - <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/nvq-and-competence-based-qualifications/health-and-social-care/healthcare-science-l2.htm>

#### **HCS Associate (Level 4)**

**Standard and EPA** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standard-healthcare-science-associate>

**Level 4 Diploma** - <http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/nvq-and-competence-based-qualifications/health-and-social-care/healthcare-science-l4.html>

#### **HCS Practitioner (HCSP) Standard**

**Standard and EPA** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standard-healthcare-science-practitioner-degree-apprenticeship>

**Skills Funding Agency Healthcare Apprenticeships On-line [HASO] (including Employer Briefings)**

<https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk>

I hope that this summary of the full HCS Apprenticeship programme will enable employers and stakeholders an easy reference to the HCS Apprenticeship programme in its entirety, enabling full use of the opportunities available for training a local HCS workforce and for using the apprenticeship levy. In addition, the Levels 2 and 4 diplomas provide the opportunity for those in the current CF [2 - 4](#) HCS workforce to develop and undertake a formal programme of training, resulting in a recognised qualification.

On behalf of the CSO Professor Sue Hill, Chair of the HCS Trailblazer Group, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and support over the last 2 years in bringing the Healthcare Science Apprenticeship programme to fruition. Your input, comments and recommendations were all gratefully received during the process of developing the Standards, End-point Assessments and the scientific content of the Diplomas. As we now enter the implementation phase of the HCS Apprenticeship programme, the NSHCS will coordinate further communication and act as a focus for the programme.

Kind regards and good luck!  
Shelley Heard