

News Flash

The EETD Team led by

Delia Cannings Wish To Advise

The Health Care Cleaning

Apprenticeship Has Landed

The ahcp Are Proud To Have

Supported This Initiative

For further information, visit

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/healthcare-cleaning-operative/>

Healthcare Cleaning Operative apprenticeship welcomed

A new health care cleaning apprenticeship has been announced and has been welcomed by industry body the Association for Healthcare Cleaning Professionals (ahcp)

The ahcp played an active role in the development of the Level 2 Healthcare Cleaning Operative apprenticeship standard, which was announced earlier this month.

The apprenticeship is the only standard with a direct focus on cleaning within Health care facilities and therefore will be important for the cleaning industry on the whole.

It will help meet the huge demanded for apprenticeships in the NHS. In order to meet Government targets, the NHS had to start 28,000 apprenticeships in 2017/18, a 75 per cent increase on 2016/17.

The NHS has an Apprenticeship Levy worth £200m, which could be used to fund applicants for the apprenticeship.

The 12-month standard has a funding band of £4,000 and is designed to support those working in healthcare environments that require specific attention to safety and infection control.

This includes a range of both public and private sector environments including NHS hospitals, private hospitals, care homes (nursing and residential), GP practices, community health centres,

The apprenticeship involves responsibility for routine and non-routine cleaning, decontamination, and rapid response cleaning. Adherence to the national standards, policies and guidelines, environmental awareness, classification of soil as well as infection prevention and bio film. Practical cleaning applications will be embedded as will the use of vapour systems.

An employer group including healthcare employers, with support from trade unions, universities, education, awarding organisations and number of industry associations has been focusing on developing an apprenticeship standard for cleaning in healthcare since 2019. The AHCP supported the employer group.

Delia Cannings, the National Lead for Education and Training for the ahcp , said: "There is a real thirst for regulated qualifications within this industry. There has been a lot of interest in the idea of a new apprenticeship designed specifically for health care environments.

"The benefits of an apprenticeship tailored exactly to the needs of health care establishments are clear. Apprenticeship Levy funding will support the NHS to offer increased training opportunities, despite financial pressures.

"The apprenticeship programme will also encourage the use of the most up-to-date technology and help maintain the highest standards of cleanliness possible on NHS properties.

"Together with the new health care cleaning standards, it will provide a solid foundation for a highly-skilled and professional health care cleaning workforce for years to come."

Apprentices without English and mathematics at level 2 must achieve English and Mathematics at level 1 and take the tests for level 2 prior to taking their end-point assessment (EPA).

The apprenticeship is open to graduates, non-graduates and school leavers working in England, with no upper age restriction.

Delivery must be undertaken by an approved training provider and will include a mixture of on-the-job and a minimum of 20 per cent off-the-job learning, which may be off-site, or on employer premises but away from immediate work pressure.

Apprentices will be assessed via a knowledge test; observation with questioning and a structured Interview, underpinned by a portfolio of evidence.

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