

Lead Practitioner in Adult Care

① What the role entails

The Lead Practitioner in Adult Care will guide and inspire team members to make positive differences to someone's life when they are faced with physical, practical, social, emotional, psychological or intellectual challenges.

They will have achieved a level of self-development to be recognised as a lead practitioner within the care team, contributing to, promoting and sustaining a values-based culture at an operational level.

A Lead Practitioner has a greater depth of knowledge and expertise of particular conditions being experienced by the user of services.

They will have specialist skills and knowledge in their area of responsibilities which will allow them to lead in areas such as care needs assessment, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and enablement, telecare and assistive technology.

They will be a coach and mentor to others and will have a role in assessing performance and quality of care delivery.

Lead Practitioners in Adult Care may work in residential or nursing homes, domiciliary care, day centres, a person's own home or some clinical healthcare settings. As well as covering Lead Practitioners in Adult Care, this standard also covers Lead Personal Assistants who can work at this senior level but they may only work directly for one individual who needs support and/or care services, usually within their own home.

② On-programme assessment

The apprentice must achieve the following on-programme assessment requirements prior to Gateway:

- Level 4 Diploma in Adult Care
- Level 2 English and maths.



③ Gateway requirements

The decision to take an apprentice through Gateway is between the apprentice, employer and Independent Training Provider. As a Gateway requirement, apprentices must complete the Level 4 Diploma in Adult Care prior to taking their end-point assessment (EPA). Apprentices without Level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the EPA. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement the apprenticeship's English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3 and British Sign Language qualifications are an alternative to English qualifications for whom this is their primary language.

The apprentice must have achieved all the required on-programme elements before they enter Gateway, including the completion of a Portfolio of Evidence that will underpin the Professional Discussion.



④ End-point assessment

The EPA consists of 2 distinct assessment methods:

Observation of Practice

Observation of Practice must include the ability to demonstrate their skills, behaviour and leadership to external/internal stakeholders. The apprentice must lead the observed activity and will have prepared for this after the Gateway in agreement with the employer and EPA Plus. The Observation method should last a total of 75 minutes. This should consist of a 60 minute direct observation, followed by 15 minutes of post-observation questioning. The Independent End-Point Assessor (IEPA) has the discretion to increase the total time of the Observation and Questioning by up to 10% to allow the apprentice to complete their last point. The Observation of Practice is graded Fail or Pass.

Professional Discussion

The Professional Discussion is an in-depth, two-way discussion between the apprentice and the IEPA.

The Professional Discussion is for the IEPA to ask the apprentice questions in relation to knowledge, skills and behaviours. The Professional Discussion must take 90 minutes with an extra 10% at the discretion of the IEPA to allow the apprentice to finish their last point. The room should be quiet and free from distraction. The Professional Discussion is graded Fail, Pass or Distinction.

! The full EPA must be completed over a maximum total assessment time of 2 days, within an EPA period lasting typically for 3 months after the apprentice has met the EPA Gateway requirements.



⑤ Grade aggregation table

Observation of Practice	Professional Discussion	EPA grade
Fail	Fail	Fail
Pass	Fail	Fail
Fail	Pass	Fail
Fail	Distinction	Fail
Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Distinction	Distinction

⑥ Completion and certification

Once the IEPA verifies the apprentice has successfully completed all EPAs, CACHE will activate certification. Working with the apprenticeship certificate issuing authority, we'll ensure the apprentice receives their certificate.



⑦ What next?

Completion of the Lead Practitioner in Adult Care EPA may lead to further opportunities such as Level 5 apprenticeship in Adult Care, management roles or foundation degree programmes or qualifications in social work, teaching, learning and assessment.

Why choose EPA Plus?

We are an approved End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) specialising in EPA delivery across Health, Education & Care and Business apprenticeship standards. EPA Plus offers flexible and reliable EPA solutions supported by sector expertise, guidance documents and proactive service and support.