

Home Carer

Home carers provide personal care, befriending and social support to clients living in their own homes.

The Work

You could be:

- helping older people, people with disabilities or people who are ill, to be as independent as possible
- listening to your clients' concerns and discussing their worries
- helping them keep in touch with their families and friends
- helping them wash, dress and go to the toilet
- doing household jobs like laundry, ironing, changing beds, cooking and cleaning
- going shopping, perhaps paying bills and collecting benefits or pension for your clients
- keeping records of each visit
- reporting any change in your clients' health or situation to your supervisor.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Salaries for home carers in Scotland is usually between £14,000 and £18,000 a year. Pay varies depending on the local authority you work for.

Conditions

- You would travel to people's homes.
- You may work in a team or alone without supervision.
- As you provide personal care, the work is sometimes messy and unpleasant.
- You might work shifts, to provide support at different times of the day and night.
- You may visit a client several times a day, or several clients within the one day, each visit being quite short.
- You may sometimes stay overnight with a client or possibly live-in for some time.
- You will probably have to work some evenings and weekends.
- Part time work is common.

Getting In

- You do not always need formal qualifications but some employers ask for some subjects at National 4 or 5.
- In some areas you may be able to get in through a Modern Apprenticeship in Social Services and

Healthcare.

- You must be fit, as you may have to lift, bathe and help older or disabled people to move about.
- Many jobs require you to have a driving licence, and in some cases, provide your own transport.
- You will require a satisfactory PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) check to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details.

Most home carers work for a local authority but you can also work for private home help agencies.

Vacancies are advertised on the official recruitment website for local government in Scotland: MyJobScotland.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- honest, reliable and punctual
- caring and understanding
- friendly, cheerful, patient and tolerant
- a good listener
- positive, flexible and adaptable
- willing to help people unable to care for themselves
- willing to help clients to be independent
- responsible and willing to use your initiative when working alone
- practical and sensible.

Training

- Training is normally on the job.
- You would be expected to undertake the SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at Level 2 or Level 3 (SCQF Level 6 or 7) within two or three years of starting.
- This allows you to register with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). See the SSSC website for more details about registering as a home carer.
- You may have to do specialist training courses depending on the needs of the client group you are working with.
- You will need to do short courses to keep up to date with new laws affecting home care workers.

Getting On

- With experience and further skills, you may move on to be a supervisor.
- You may then be able to become a [Care Manager](#) or more senior manager.
- You could go on to take further qualifications to become a [Social Worker](#).

Contacts

Care Inspectorate

Tel: 0345 600 9527

Email: enquiries@careinspectorate.gov.scot

Website: www.careinspectorate.com

X: @CareInspect

Facebook: www.facebook.com/careinspectorate

Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)

Tel: 0345 60 30 891

Website: www.sssc.uk.com

Website (2): learn.sssc.uk.com/careers

X: @SSSCnews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thesssc

Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.