

Apprenticeship Standard Trailblazer

for HCSW (ST0216/AP01), SHCSW (ST0217/AP02) and Assistant Practitioner (Health) (ST0215/AP01)

FAQ for EPAOs

- 1. Q? As the HCSW standard does not mandate a qualification, employers may select to use one eg Level 2 Diploma in Care. In those instances can the apprentice go onto the gateway even if they have not completed the qualification?**

A. It is up to the employer to decide when the apprentice is ready to go forward to end point assessment. If no qualification is mandated the employer can put them forward for end point assessment at any time, irrespective of whether or not they have completed the qualification.
- 2. Q? Is it possible to include extra time for reading the MCQ/short answer papers?**

A. No, the time allocated is for the whole test eg 60 questions in 60 minutes.
- 3. Q? Is the Care Certificate a gateway requirement or not?**

A. The 15 standards of the Care Certificate should be met by the apprentice, this is during induction. This does not necessarily mean that the apprentice will hold a 'Care Certificate' but their employer should be satisfied that their induction enables them to meet those standards. So having a 'Care Certificate' is not a gateway requirement but 'meeting the standards of the Care Certificate' is a gateway requirement.
- 4. Q? Can you clarify the experience requirements for End Point Assessors?**

A. Assessors must 'have experience of working in a health or social care setting within the last 2 years' means that they should have undertaken direct clinical care within the last 2 years. Assessors who don't have currency of practice should not be used.
- 5. Q? Can an invigilator be used to run the Multiple Choice / Short Answer test/s?**

A. Yes. If an invigilator is used, the End Point Assessment Organisation will ensure that invigilation is carried out in line with their usual policy (eg ensuring the right person is taking the test, that it is their own work etc).



6. Q? In the Assistant Practitioner Standard, what is meant by the ‘strategic environment’?

A. The strategic environment includes:

- Current national health and care policy initiatives for example closer integration of health and social care, STPs and vanguard sites
- How changes to national policy impact on health and social care services
- How national policy applies to their place of work and the services they provide

7. Q? Is it possible to have a greater breakdown of the underpinning knowledge requirements for the Assistant Practitioner standard?

A. No. It is not possible to provide this at this time (aside from Q7 which explains the strategic environment). Awarding organisations are advised to keep a note of any decisions they make about this so that they can refer to them if asked by their external quality assurance provider. This feedback will also be useful to the Trailblazer group when the standard is due for review.

8. Q? How many times can an apprentice re-sit/re-take the End Point Assessment?

A. The Institute for Apprenticeships guidance places the decision about how many times someone can re-sit or re-take in the hands of the employer. Employers may want to consider the funding implications of this and set their own requirements. Usually they will discuss and agree their approach to this with the EPAO. If it is not explicitly stated in the assessment plan, they may also want to consider whether or not they want to add in a time schedule about how soon a re-sit/re-take can happen after the first attempt.

9. Q? When new versions of assessment plans are published which one should be used with apprentices who have already started?

A. Usually the apprentices will be assessed against the plan that was live at the time that they registered on the apprenticeship. However, if it is in the best interest of the apprentice then, with the agreement of the employer and training provider, they can be moved to the new plan. Usually this will only be appropriate if the apprentice is less than half-way through their apprenticeship.

