

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Including: Social Worker, Care Assistant, Probation Officer, Counsellor, Teacher, Youth and Community Worker, Education Welfare Officer, Nurse, Personal Adviser, Psychologist, Midwife, Health Visitor, Physiotherapist, Dietician, Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Therapist...

Birmingham & Solihull

AZ

Vocational Learning Guide

2004-2005



THE LANDSCAPE

There's a lot more to health and care than frontline medical services. The sector offers a wide range of rewarding and challenging career opportunities and currently employs around 67,000 people in Birmingham and Solihull. The changing demographic profile is having a profound effect on the health and care sector, with employment rising by eight per cent in the last ten years.

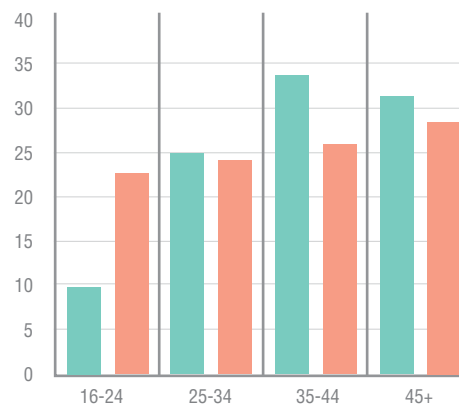
People are living longer, placing extra demands on health care and social service providers. Meanwhile, a drive to tackle some of the most extreme examples of social inequality has further stretched limited resources. A major programme of health service modernisation and restructuring has also had a substantial influence on the working environment in health and care.

Recent surveys indicate problems with staff retention in the sector. Birmingham and Solihull, like many densely populated urban areas, struggles to recruit and retain sufficient skilled social workers, occupational therapists and domiciliary care workers. And a shortfall in GPs is predicted with a high proportion of experienced community practitioners due for retirement.

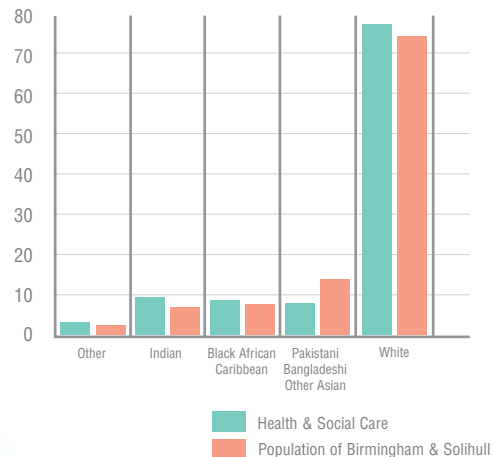
Nearly a quarter of all Birmingham and Solihull employers across the sector report skills gaps within their current workforce. Serious shortfalls have been identified in the specialist skills needed to deal with highly vulnerable people and general transferable skills, particularly in relation to new technology.

Analysts predict that a change in the demographic make-up of the health and care sector workforce will be needed in the next few years, with 80 per cent of all Birmingham-based employees being female and the average age creeping up. Although minority ethnic representation is broadly comparable to the population as a whole, Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents are still under-represented.

WORKFORCE PROFILE BY AGE IN THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR (BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL)



WORKFORCE PROFILE BY ETHNICITY IN THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR (BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL)



ROBERTA BATCHELOR

NURSE | SELLY OAK HOSPITAL



Roberta Batchelor is a staff nurse at Selly Oak Hospital caring for patients before and after plastic surgery. Roberta started her career as a care assistant and was the first nursing auxiliary to be sponsored by University Hospital Trust, Birmingham to train as a nurse.

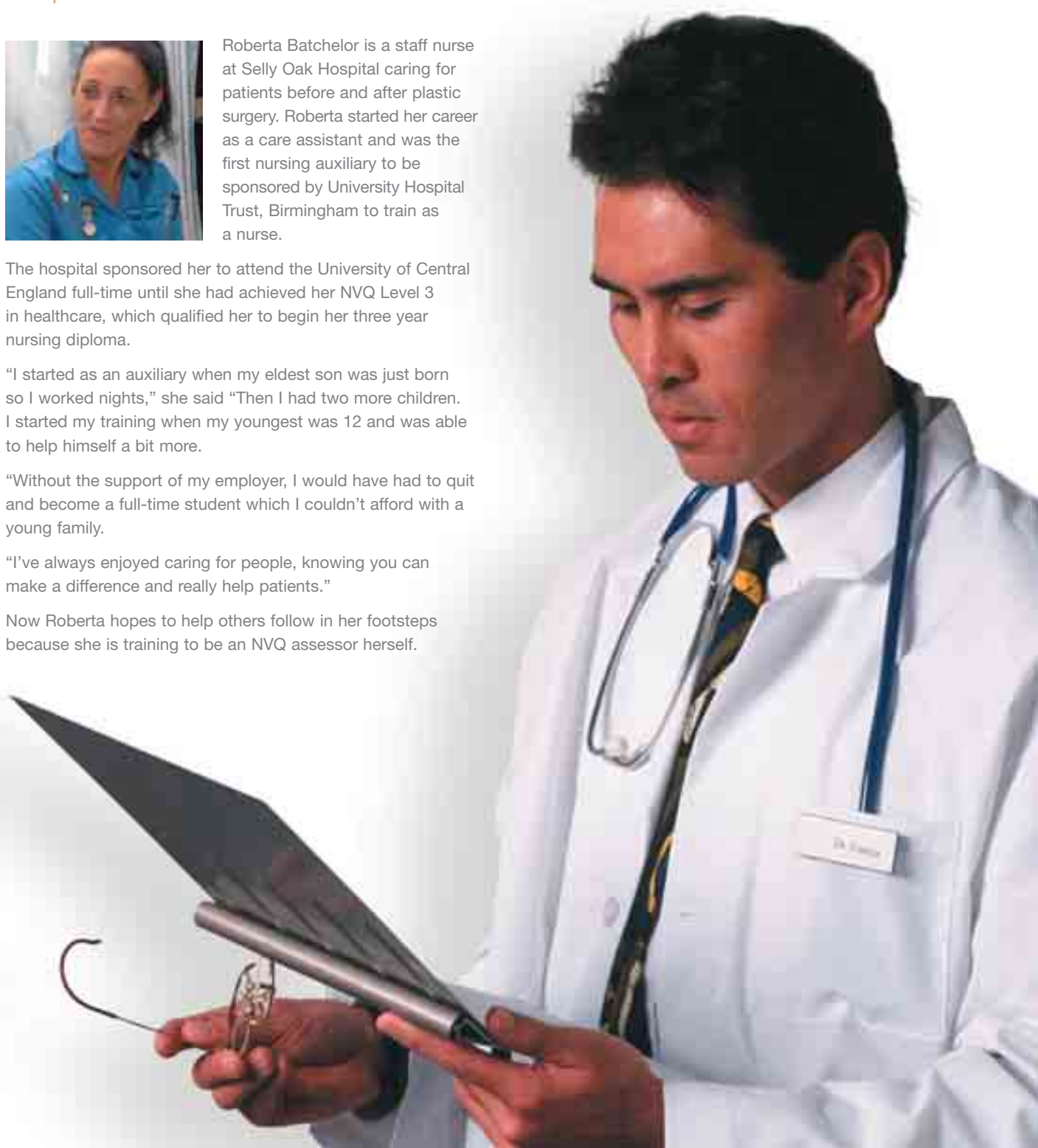
The hospital sponsored her to attend the University of Central England full-time until she had achieved her NVQ Level 3 in healthcare, which qualified her to begin her three year nursing diploma.

“I started as an auxiliary when my eldest son was just born so I worked nights,” she said “Then I had two more children. I started my training when my youngest was 12 and was able to help himself a bit more.

“Without the support of my employer, I would have had to quit and become a full-time student which I couldn’t afford with a young family.

“I’ve always enjoyed caring for people, knowing you can make a difference and really help patients.”

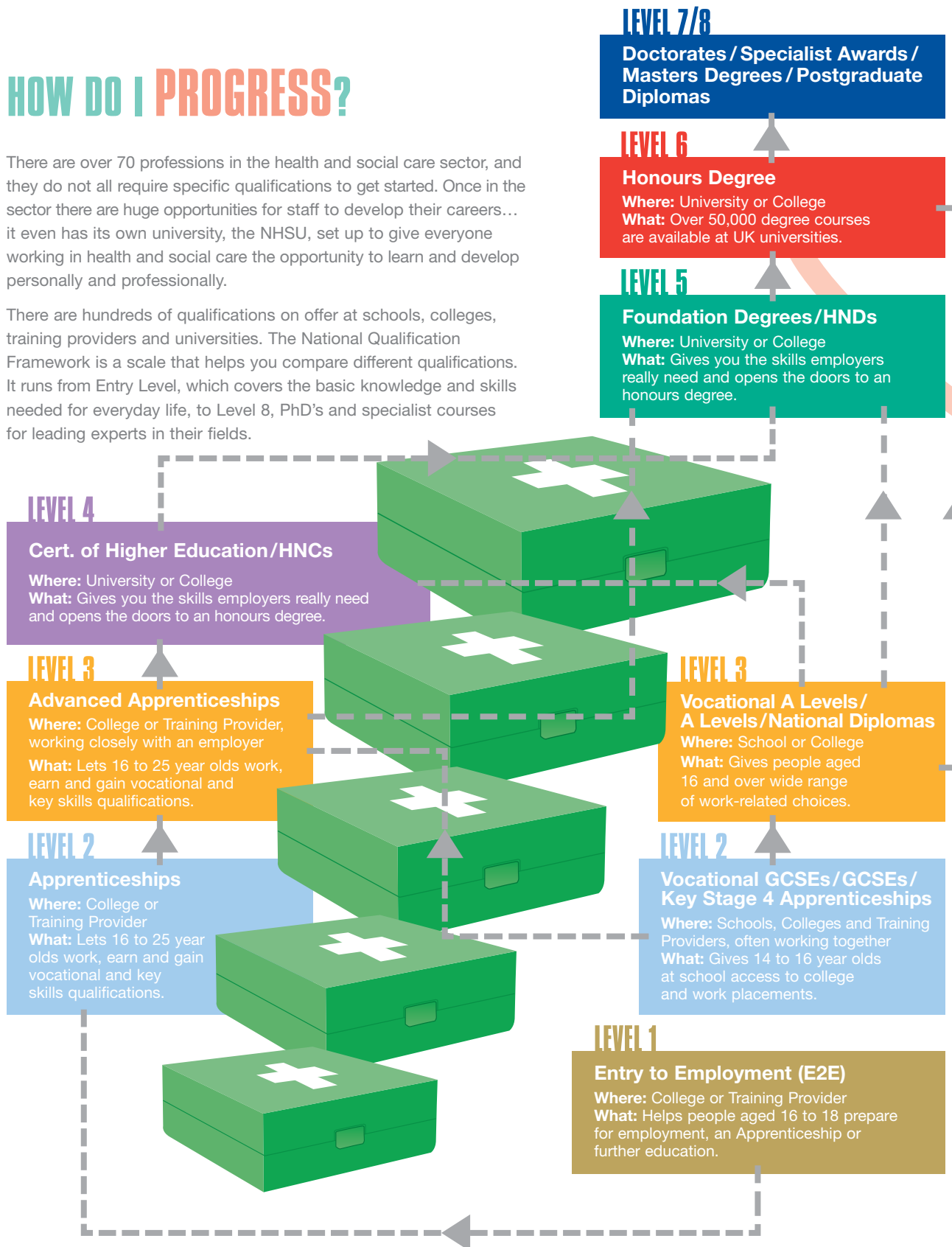
Now Roberta hopes to help others follow in her footsteps because she is training to be an NVQ assessor herself.



HOW DO I PROGRESS?

There are over 70 professions in the health and social care sector, and they do not all require specific qualifications to get started. Once in the sector there are huge opportunities for staff to develop their careers... it even has its own university, the NHSU, set up to give everyone working in health and social care the opportunity to learn and develop personally and professionally.

There are hundreds of qualifications on offer at schools, colleges, training providers and universities. The National Qualification Framework is a scale that helps you compare different qualifications. It runs from Entry Level, which covers the basic knowledge and skills needed for everyday life, to Level 8, PhD's and specialist courses for leading experts in their fields.



WHICH ROUTE IS RIGHT FOR ME?

There are a wide variety of different career routes open to you within the health and care sector, many of which will offer the opportunity to specialise. Careers in this sector can be hugely rewarding but will also be frustrating and emotionally challenging.

Entry qualifications, training routes and local opportunities will differ widely and it is important therefore not only to research the way into these careers but also to consider the length of training required, any funding implications and ultimately what kind of person you are. **Use this A-Z to help you begin your research into the health and care sector and begin to take care of your own career direction!**

- Social Worker
- Care Assistant
- Probation Officer
- Counsellor
- Teacher
- Youth and Community Worker
- Education Welfare Officer
- Nurse
- Personal Adviser
- Psychologist
- Midwife
- Health Visitor
- Physiotherapist
- Dietician
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech & Language Therapist

AME BIRRING

CARE SUPERVISOR



An Apprenticeship has set Ame Birring on the road to a rewarding career in care. Canadian-born Ame planned to become a social worker after studying health and social care.

But she had not yet turned 21, the minimum age to start training as a social worker, so she looked elsewhere for a challenging career path.

Ame enrolled on an Apprenticeship in care and has never looked back. She has completed NVQ Levels 2 and 3 and is now enjoying a rewarding role as a career-supervisor in a Birmingham home for partially-sighted and blind people.

“In this job, learning while you work is by far the best way because no two residents have exactly the same needs. You can’t learn that in a classroom.”





WHO WILL HELP ME GET THERE?

Living in Birmingham and Solihull gives you a wide range of learning providers to choose from, whatever your age. Vocational qualifications are available at secondary schools, 6th Form Colleges, Further Education Colleges, work-based learning providers and major universities in the area, not to mention hundreds of community learning centres for adults. Many learning providers work together to give their learners the best resources and teaching, and to support them as they move up the qualification ladder.

MAKING THE NEXT STEP

The following learning providers offer Health and Care-related vocational courses.

Schools ■ ○

Many schools are introducing Vocational GCSEs, Key Stage 4 Apprenticeships and other work-related courses. Schools with 6th Forms offer Vocational A Levels and National Diplomas. Contact your local school to find out more or visit the Birmingham Grid for Learning website www.bgfl.org

Higher Education Institutions

The following universities and colleges offer HNDs, HNCs and Foundation Degrees in Health & Social Care.

Aston University ★

Tel: 0121 359 3611
www.aston.ac.uk

Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies ★◆

Tel: 0121 604 1000/0121 604 1000 ext 237/241
www.bcftcs.ac.uk

Matthew Boulton College of Further and Higher Education ★◆

Tel: 0121 446 4545/3143
www.mbc.ac.uk

Newman College of Higher Education ★

Tel: 0121 476 1181
www.newman.ac.uk

Open University ★

Tel: 0121 428 1550
www.open.ac.uk

South Birmingham College ★◆●

Tel: 0121 694 5098/6334/5013
www.sbc.ac.uk

Sutton Coldfield College ★◆

Tel: 0121 362 1176/
0121 362 1125/0121 355 5671 ext 5623
www.sutcol.ac.uk

University of Central England ★

Tel: 0121 331 5000
www.uce.ac.uk

Learning Providers

The following learning providers will offer Entry to Employment and Apprenticeships/Advanced Apprenticeships. Contact the providers listed below to find out more.

2C Limited ●

Tel: 0121 200 1112

3E's Enterprises ◆●

Tel: 0121 788 1001

Archway ●

Tel: 0121 328 5005/384 4040

Bellis Training & Assessment Centre ●

Tel: 0121 236 6841

KEY ● E2E ■ Vocational GCSEs/Key Stage 4 Apprenticeships ◆ Apprenticeships/Advanced Apprenticeships
○ Vocational A Levels/A Levels/National Diplomas ★ Foundation Degrees/HNDs/HNCs

**BIETEC** ●

Tel: 0121 248 8322

Birmingham Rathbone Society ◆ ●

Tel: 0121 449 1011

Bournville College ◆ ●Tel: 0121 483 1080/
0121 483 1000 ext 1015/1038**ENTA** ●

Tel: 0121 359 6776

Focus Pathways ◆

Tel: 0121 333 6999

Future Health & Social Care ◆

Tel: 0121 622 1888

Gordon Franks Training & Personnel ●

Tel: 0121 632 5624

Greenspring Training ●

Tel: 0121 551 2202

JAC Training and Development ●David James Centre for Learning
Tel: 0121 245 2828/2830**JHP Training** ◆ ●

Tel: 0121 665 6655/0121 643 4200

Josiah Mason College ◆

Tel: 0121 603 4757 ext 2288/2285

Kelter Training Ltd ◆

Tel: 01527 830522

Kingsbury Training ●

Tel: 0121 384 3886

Matthew Boulton College ◆

Tel: 0121 446 4545

NACRO ●

Tel: 0121 554 6342

Omega Training Services Ltd ◆

Tel: 08452 301530

Performance Through People ◆

Tel: 0121 643 2653

Solihull College ◆ ●

Tel: 0121 678 7271/0121 678 7000

Triangle Training Ltd ◆

Tel: 0121 233 2993

VT Plus Training ◆

Tel: 0121 260 3841

In the fast moving world of vocational learning very detailed information in leaflets like this can go out of date quite quickly. Use the telephone numbers and website addresses above to get the very latest information.



THE NEXT STEPS

Information, Advice and Guidance

Many organisations promote careers in Health and Social Care. Here are just some of the websites you can explore, providing useful background on the industry and how to make progress in it.

National Health Service
NHS Careers Helpline
Tel: 0800 60 60 655
www.nhs Careers.nhs.uk

Social Services
www.socialworkcareers.co.uk

Birmingham and Solihull Connexions
Connexions is a youth support service providing information, advice and guidance for all 13-19 year olds (or up to 25 if you have a learning difficulty or disability). Connexions Personal Advisers work with learners in schools, colleges and training providers and are also available at 17 Connexions Centres across Birmingham and Solihull.
Tel: 0121 248 8004/8005
www.connexions-bs.co.uk

Connexions Direct
Connexions Direct Advisers offer information, confidential advice and practical help, and are available from 8am to 2am, 7 days a week. The Connexions Direct website includes an A-Z of over 600 occupations, giving information on job satisfaction, pay, conditions, entry requirements and career progression.
Tel: 080 800 13 2 19
www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u

Birmingham and Solihull Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Network
Over 200 organisations involved in education, training and skills development in Birmingham and Solihull belong to the IAG Network and all

provide adults with information, advice and guidance on learning and work.
Tel: 0800 073 0634
www.iag-bs.co.uk

WorkTrain
This national jobs and learning site has a training section which allows you to search for courses by subject area, qualification, teaching style, and location.
www.worktrain.gov.uk

Apprenticeships
Loads of information on Apprenticeships ...what they involve, where they can take you and how to find out more.
Tel: 08000 150 600
www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Learndirect
Information on learning opportunities, funding, childcare, careers, qualifications, including online factsheets and information on local career and educational advice centres.
Tel: 0800 100 900
www.learndirect.co.uk

Higher Education

Aimhigher
The Government's official site for students, parents and advisers, with links to various resources.
www.aimhigher.ac.uk

Aimhigher West Midlands
The local higher education scene, with information on opportunities for vocational learners.
www.aimhigherwm.org

UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)
The official site for undergraduate applications and admissions, complete with a searchable course database and

applications information. Also, help for international students and parents.
www.ucas.ac.uk

Foundation Degrees
The latest information on developments in foundation degrees.
www.foundationdegree.org.uk

Hotcourses
A comprehensive database for undergraduate, postgraduate, FE and vocational courses.
www.hotcourses.co.uk

Finance and Support for Learning

DfES - Student Support
Contains forms, guides and frequently asked questions in sections for students, parents and advisers.
www.dfes.gov.uk/student-support

Birmingham City Council Education Department Student Support Service
Tel: 0121 303 3647 and 3648
e-mail: studentsupport@birmingham.gov.uk

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Student Support Service
Tel: 0121 704 6639
e-mail: studentsupport@solihull.gov.uk

SKILL (The National Bureau for Students with Disabilities)
Factsheets and answers to frequently asked questions for students with disabilities.
www.skill.org.uk

Student Money
A guide to planning and organising your student finances.
www.studentmoney.org



Learning+Skills Council
Birmingham and Solihull

