

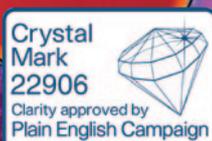
May 2022



Principles for continuing professional development and lifelong learning in health and social care

Prepared by:
The Interprofessional CPD and Lifelong Learning
UK Working Group

#CPDtogether



NEXT ▶



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A collegiate project of this size means there are a lot of people to thank. We would like to thank previous and existing members of the Interprofessional CPD and Lifelong Learning UK Working Group including: Graham Harris, Will Broughton, Gary Strong, Sue Russel (College of Paramedics), Helen Chang (Royal Pharmaceutical Society), Louise Coleman (College of Radiographers), Gill Coverdale and Lucy Tomlins (Royal College of Nursing), Colin Crookston (AHPF Scotland), Mike Donnellon (College of Operating Department Practitioners), Thomas Elton (The British Psychological Society), Sally Gosling (Chartered Society of Physiotherapy), Victoria Harris (The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists), Kate Hon (British and Irish Orthoptic Society), Val Huet (British Association of Art Therapists), Val Johnston (UNISON), Carmel Lloyd (The Royal College of Midwives, Lucie Nield, Menna Wyn-Wright and Steph Thomason (British Dietetic Association), Ethel Rodrigues (Unite the Union), Lynne Rowley (The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists), David Stirling (Association of Clinical Scientists), Stephanie Tempest and Nikki Daniels (Royal College of Occupational Therapists), Alan Wainwright and Richardia Penn (Institute of Biomedical Science), Grace Watts and Andrew Langford (British Association for Music Therapy), Gary Faraday (British Association of Arts Therapists), Paul Cushley (Dental Director National Services Scotland)

Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the development of this resource including all stakeholders who provided feedback.

The Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF) have reviewed this document and offer their full support of the principles for continuing professional development and lifelong learning in health and social care.



CONTENTS

Definitions	4
Introduction	5
Purpose of this document	6
The five principles	6
The importance of CPD and lifelong learning	7
Benefits of CPD and lifelong learning	7
Principle 1: CPD and lifelong learning should be each person's responsibility and be made possible and supported by your employer	8
Principle 2: CPD and lifelong learning should benefit service users	9
Principle 3: CPD and lifelong learning should improve the quality of service delivery	10
Principle 4: CPD and lifelong learning should be balanced and relevant to each person's area of practice or employment	11
Principle 5: CPD and lifelong learning should be recorded and show the effect on each person's area of practice	12
References and further reading	14
Group members	15–16
Contact details	17
Publisher information	18



DEFINITIONS

Continuing professional development (CPD)

The way in which you continue to learn and develop throughout your career. CPD is essential. It adds to your skills, knowledge, professional identity and ways of thinking so that you stay up to date and practise safely and effectively, now and in the future.

Lifelong learning

Formal and informal learning opportunities that allow you to continuously develop and improve the knowledge and skills you need for employment and personal fulfilment.

Service user

Anyone who uses or is affected by your services, for example, patients, clients, carers, families, students, volunteers, staff members or colleagues.

Wider system

Any group or organisation that supports, provides the resources for or governs the health and social care workforce, for example, UK administrations, professional bodies and associations, service user groups, trade unions, other service providers and regulators.

Health and social care workforce

Everyone who works in the health and social care workforce, including in research, education, leadership, management and clinical practice. This covers all sectors and settings, both public and private and across the community.



INTRODUCTION

The principles outlined in this document have been agreed by the organisations represented within the Interprofessional Continuing Professional Development and Lifelong Learning UK Working Group (Membership list – Appendix A).

This document replaces the 'Joint statement on CPD for health and social care practitioners' published in 2007.

Continuing professional development (CPD) and lifelong learning are necessary for the development of everyone who works in health and social care and for the experience of service users. CPD and lifelong learning support a workforce that is capable of designing, delivering, evaluating and improving high-quality care and services.

The principles set out in this document should be applied across the health and social care workforce in all sectors, to support CPD and lifelong learning. Registered health and social care professionals also have a responsibility to meet the standards of their regulatory or professional body.

CPD and lifelong learning are each person's responsibility. Also:

- professional bodies and trade unions have a shared responsibility to promote CPD and lifelong learning to their members and provide guidance to support the highest standards of practice;
- employers have a responsibility to support you to take part in CPD and lifelong learning in line with regulatory, professional and UK health and social care system requirements (as well as any statutory and compulsory training requirements); and
- the wider system has a responsibility to promote and support fair access to CPD and lifelong learning opportunities as part of planning, developing and investing in a workforce.

By working together, the benefits will be felt across services and improve care and delivery.



THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

CPD and lifelong learning drive improvement in how services are delivered and how the workforce is developed. This document sets out five high-level principles for the health and social care workforce across the UK and is designed for individuals, employers and the wider system.

You should use these principles alongside professional and regulatory standards. They are relevant to everybody who works in health and social care, and we encourage all organisations to follow them.

THE FIVE PRINCIPLES

CPD and lifelong learning should:

- 1 Principle 1:** be each person's responsibility and be made possible and supported by your employer;
- 2 Principle 2:** benefit service users;
- 3 Principle 3:** improve the quality of service delivery;
- 4 Principle 4:** be balanced and relevant to each person's area of practice or employment; and
- 5 Principle 5:** be recorded and show the effect on each person's area of practice.

These principles reflect shared responsibilities for:

- **you** to recognise and demonstrate the effect of CPD and lifelong learning on practice (see reference 1 on page 14);
- **your employer** (if this applies) to actively invest in people and provide opportunities for CPD and lifelong learning; and
- **the wider system** to support the health and social care workforce and improve the safety and quality of services by investing in and developing the workforce.



THE IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF CPD AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Service users expect individuals and teams to have and use up-to-date knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to their area of practice.

The health and social care workforce operates in a constantly changing, challenging and complex environment. Developing new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking will help you to accept new and flexible ways of working which are based on evidence, and contribute to improving services. To do this, there needs to be investment in effective, supported and quality CPD and lifelong learning for everybody.

A shared commitment to developing a well-resourced and effective workforce will improve the quality of service delivery, improve outcomes and reduce risk. The table below lists the benefits of CPD and lifelong learning to **you, service users and organisations.**

Encourages a positive learning culture

Improves skills, knowledge, and ways of thinking and working

Makes you feel valued, motivated and confident

Develops your career and helps you to move between sectors and roles

Makes you feel able to drive change and innovation

Means you remain fit to practise and meet regulatory body standards (including codes of conduct)

Keeps you up to date with changing technology and service demands

Improves experience and outcomes

Makes you feel safe and confident in the services provided

Increases satisfaction with services

Contributes to up-to-date and evidence-based services

Influences service development

Improves the quality of service delivery

Supports recruitment, keeping staff, and creating a flexible workforce

Adds to the mix of skills and productivity of staff

Improves performance



1

Principle 1: CPD and lifelong learning should be each person’s responsibility and be made possible and supported by your employer

<p>You</p>	<p>You are responsible for regularly planning, prioritising, carrying out, applying and reflecting on CPD and lifelong learning.</p> <p>You appreciate and recognise that valuable learning can happen in both planned and unplanned situations.</p> <p>You are responsible for identifying and demonstrating the benefits of learning to influence and gain support from your employer (if this applies).</p>
<p>Your employer</p>	<p>Has a responsibility to make sure that you are safe, up to date with current practices and can meet the needs of service users, in line with your professional standards.</p> <p>Provides fair access to time, study leave and funding to allow you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● plan learning ● carry out learning, and ● think about the outcomes of learning. <p>Encourages and supports access to learning that is separate to statutory and compulsory training, for the benefit of service users.</p> <p>Provides and supports access to resources (for example, technology) when they are needed.</p>
<p>The wider system</p>	<p>Is responsible for creating and promoting opportunities for integrated learning across teams.</p>



2

Principle 2: CPD and lifelong learning should benefit service users

You	<p>Your learning should develop new knowledge and skills, add to your existing skills, and provide opportunities to initiate and reinforce best practice.</p> <p>Your learning should be relevant to the needs of your service users or your employer (or both) and used in your area of practice.</p>
Your employer	<p>Is responsible for identifying the needs of service users to guide how relevant your learning is.</p>
The wider system	<p>Is responsible for supporting and promoting quality CPD and lifelong learning that benefits service users.</p>



3

Principle 3: CPD and lifelong learning should improve the quality of service delivery

<p>You</p>	<p>You explore and use ways to show how your learning has improved the quality of your practice.</p> <p>Your learning and the outcomes of your learning improve the quality of your service delivery and reduce risk.</p> <p>You identify opportunities to learn from and share learning with others.</p>
<p>Your employer</p>	<p>Encourages a culture of learning from experiences with positive outcomes, as well as from situations that did not go well.</p> <p>Supports learning opportunities between individuals, teams and networks, across services and organisations.</p> <p>Supports learning activity with time, staffing and resources to improve the quality of their service.</p>
<p>The wider system</p>	<p>Provides resources for quality learning through management, workforce and service delivery plans.</p> <p>Evaluates the effect of an appropriately qualified workforce on the quality of services.</p> <p>Has systems in place to assess the quality of CPD and lifelong learning activity.</p>



4

Principle 4: CPD and lifelong learning should be balanced and relevant to each person's area of practice or employment

<p>You</p>	<p>Your learning should include activities across the following four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health and social care ● Learning and education ● Leadership ● Evidence, research and development. <p>(Adapted from: NHS Education for Scotland, Four Pillars of Practice, 2012. See reference 2 on page 14).</p> <p>You take part in a range of learning activities, both formal and informal, as well as active and reflective (where you think about what you have learned).</p> <p>You take part in learning that is relevant to, challenges and develops your current or intended area of practice.</p> <p>Your learning meets relevant organisational, professional or regulatory standards.</p>
<p>Your employer</p>	<p>Recognises and supports learning across the following four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health and social care ● Learning and education ● Leadership ● Evidence, research and development. <p>Provides opportunities for a range of learning, including employees learning with and from each other.</p> <p>Responds to your learning needs within a constantly changing, challenging and complex environment.</p>
<p>The wider system</p>	<p>Promotes the value of a range of learning activities.</p> <p>Recognises and reinforces that the most important parts of learning are the outcomes.</p>



5

Principle 5: CPD and lifelong learning should be recorded and show the effect on each person's area of practice

<p>You</p>	<p>You are responsible for keeping a record of your learning that demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● what you learnt ● how it adds to or develops your area of practice, and ● the effect on service users or service delivery. <p>You are responsible for accessing, promoting and using the resources available to you to support your CPD and lifelong learning.</p> <p>You are responsible for making sure you respect service users' confidentiality.</p>
<p>Your employer</p>	<p>Provides time, resources and opportunities to allow you to record and think about the outcomes of learning.</p> <p>Provides the opportunity to share the outcomes of learning across organisations.</p> <p>Has systems in place to monitor and audit fair access to CPD and lifelong learning activity.</p>
<p>The wider system</p>	<p>Raises awareness of existing and new resources to support recording and thinking about the outcome of learning.</p>



SUMMARY

This document continues a journey to develop and improve CPD and lifelong learning within the broader health and social care workforce. The principles will help to guide you, your employer and the wider system to encourage a culture of continuous improvement and workforce development for the benefit of those who use our services.

We will evaluate the effect of these principles to continue supporting the health and social care workforce with CPD and lifelong learning.



REFERENCES

1. Health and Care Professions Council (2015). Our Rules for How Health and Care Professionals Behave. Available at: <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10004EE2Ourrulesforhowhealthandcareprofessionalsbehave.pdf> Accessed 29 May 2018.
2. NHS Education for Scotland. (2012). Pillars of Practice. Available at: <http://www.careerframework.nes.scot.nhs.uk/using-the-framework/pillars-of-practice> Accessed 29 May 2018

FURTHER RESOURCES

Academy of Royal Colleges. (2016). Core principles for Continuing Professional Development https://www.aomrc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Core_Principles_CPD_0716-2.pdf

Aiken, LH. (2014) Nurse staffing and education and hospital mortality in nine European countries: a retrospective observational study. *The Lancet* 383(9931): 1824–1830

Council of Deans of Health. (2016). Professor David Greatbatch – A false economy Cuts to Continuing Professional Development funding for nursing, midwifery and the Allied Health Professions in England <https://councilofdeans.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/19092016-A-False-Economy-CPD-cuts-in-England-2016-17-.pdf>

Department of Health. (2013). A promise to learn – a commitment to act. Improving the safety of patients in England (2013) London, National Advisory Group on Patient Safety in England. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/berwick-review-into-patient-safety>

Francis, R. (2013). Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry. London: The Stationery Office.

Government Office for Science. (2017). What are the wider benefits of learning across the life course? (2017) Foresight Future of Skills & Lifelong Learning project. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/635837/Skills_and_lifelong_learning_-_the_benefits_of_adult_learning_-_schuller_-_final.pdf

Health & Care Professions Council. (2015). Preventing small problems from becoming big problems in health and care. (2015) London, HCPC. <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10004A7EPreventingSmallProblemsFromBecomingBigProblemsInHealthAndCare.pdf>

The European Hospital and Healthcare Employers Association - European Public Service Union (2016) Joint Declaration on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Life-Long Learning (LLL) for All Health Workers in the EU. <http://hospeem.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Final-Joint-Declaration-CPDLLL-08.11.2016-EN.pdf>

APPENDIX A

– LIST OF ORGANISATIONS ENDORSING THIS RESOURCE



College of Paramedics



Allied Health Professions
Federation Scotland



The Royal College of Speech
and Language Therapists

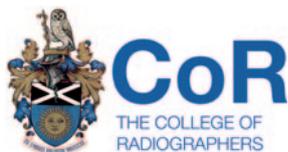
Royal Pharmaceutical Society



College of Operating
Department Practitioners



British and Irish Orthoptic
Society



The Society and College of
Radiographers



The British Psychological
Society



British Association of Art
Therapists



Royal College of Nursing



Chartered Society of
Physiotherapy



UNISON

APPENDIX A

– LIST OF ORGANISATIONS ENDORSING THIS RESOURCE



The Royal College of Midwives



The British Association of
Prosthetists and Orthotists



Institute of Biomedical Science



British Dietetic Association

Association of Clinical
Scientists



British Association for Music
Therapy



Unite the union



Royal College of Occupational
Therapists



APPENDIX B – CONTACT DETAILS

Organisation	Website
Allied Health Professions Federation Scotland	http://www.ahpf.org.uk/Allied_Health_Professions_Federation_Scotland.htm
Association of Clinical Scientists	https://assclnsci.org/
British Association of Art Therapists	https://www.baat.org
British Association for Music Therapy	https://www.bamt.org
British and Irish Orthoptic Society	https://www.orthoptics.org.uk
British Dietetic Association	https://www.bda.uk.com
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	https://www.csp.org.uk
College of Operating Department Practitioners	https://www.unison.org.uk/at-work/health-care/representing-you/unison-partnerships/codp/
College of Paramedics	https://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk
Institute of Biomedical Science	https://www.ibms.org
Royal College of Nursing	https://www.rcn.org.uk
Royal College of Occupational Therapists	https://www.rcot.co.uk
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	https://www.rpharms.com
The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists	https://www.bapo.com
The British Psychological Society	https://www.bps.org.uk
The Royal College of Midwives	https://www.rcm.org.uk
The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists	https://www.rcslt.org
The Society and College of Radiographers	https://www.sor.org
UNISON	https://www.unison.org.uk
Unite the union	https://www.unitetheunion.org



Publisher information

First published in January 2019 by the College of Paramedics, The Exchange, Express Park, Bristol Road, Bridgwater, TA6 4RR

Second edition May 2022: The publication was reviewed and published with new branding and additional acknowledgements in April 2022, but all other content remains unchanged

Date for review: May 2025

Share your thoughts on how you use these principles with us via Twitter

#CPDTogether

Reference: Broughton W. and Harris G. (2019) (Eds.) on behalf of the Interprofessional CPD and Lifelong Learning UK Working Group. Principles for Continuing Professional Development and Lifelong Learning in Health and Social Care. Bridgwater: College of Paramedics.