

Assistant Practitioner Role

Learning Disability Services

The Assistant Practitioner (AP) role refers to a band 4 or equivalent practitioner working within a health and social care setting who undertakes more advanced and complex skills and procedures beyond that of a traditional support worker.

The role can be developed to meet the needs of the service by working within agreed protocols to enable the AP to perform tasks previously only within the remit of registered practitioners.

The AP role is clearly identified within Agenda for Change and Skills for Health Career Framework which supports the development of building capacity and capability within the area.

The AP role within Learning Disability Services has been developed to enable the delivery of higher level skills in specific aspects of care.

Key skills include:

- Health screening
- Breast & testicular examinations
- Health promotion
- Smoking cessation
- Doppler scans
- Compression bandaging
- Contraception and sexual health
- Body Mass Index and weight loss management

The AP is able to carry out these extended skills at a more advanced level due to the underpinning knowledge and theory gained whilst on the Foundation Degree. The AP role complements the registered practitioner enabling them to focus on individuals with higher complex needs.