

Care Suite



The Care Skills Training Centre at the City of Oxford College gives students a unique insight into careers in clinical health and social care. On offer is a range of activities tailored to your educational and training needs. There is a six-bed simulated hospital ward, fully equipped home care room and a fully immersive learning space, which enables the hands-on, practical, learning experiences that students need. In addition, the Care Suite provides acute clinical and residential care facilities for simulated teaching and learning.



These facilities, funded by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and delivered by Activate Learning, are preparing new entrants for their future careers by immersing them in realistic working environments that develop the technical and soft skills required. They are also supporting existing healthcare professionals.

The suite has been used by the local NHS as a training facility to support students who are already working in hospital settings and training to develop their careers.



Learners can practice and refine the skills they need to make them ready for life in the workplace. In addition to using the facilities for City of Oxford College learning programmes, Activate Learning are also keen to help meet the training and development needs of local health care organisations, schools, and colleges.

“It is estimated that the social care workforce alone needs to grow by 750 new jobs every year to 2025 to keep pace with demand. This new care suite is helping to attract more people to consider working in the sector, giving them an excellent preparation for their career, as well as developing the skills and expertise of those already employed by the NHS and Care Providers.” Quote from Activate Learning

Funding for this project came primarily from the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) totalling £399,700 from the government’s Local Growth Fund with the addition of £60,000 match funding from Activate Learning. Since the completion of the project a further £10,000 of additional capital funds have been used to improve the facilities, including a therapeutic bed and an ambulance suite.

The facility established in Oxford, has played a significant role in the development of Activate Learning’s relationships with NHS Trust across 3 counties and by utilising the lessons learned from this project in Oxford, they have established new facilities in Reading, Guilford, and Bracknell campuses with improved facilities (Immersive teaching space and a Home Room for domiciliary care practice).

In the past 5 years (from 2016/17 to 2020/21) the Advanced Skills Centre has enabled the following number of students to gain experience and qualifications.

Level 1	131 students
Level 2	284 students
Level 3	345 students
Levels 4 & 5	51 Students
Access to Health (all courses – e.g. nursing)	147 students
Apprenticeships level 2	30 students
Apprenticeships level 3	49 students
Apprenticeships level 5	24 students
Totals	1061 Students