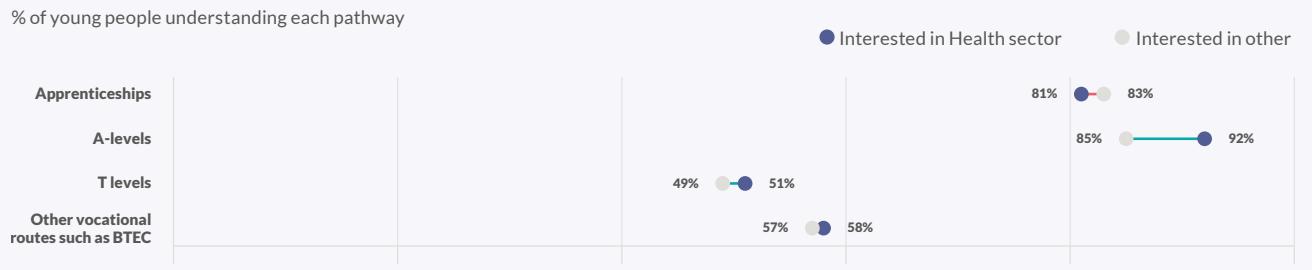


Health sector

Fig. 1: Young people interested in the Health sector are more likely to understand A levels



Source: Futures Skills Questionnaire data, end of July 2025 (Year 11 responding to the industry/career question, N=26,842)

Sector demand landscape

- The NHS employs **1.54 million** people (3% of the UK workforce). [A further 150,000 workers are employed in the private healthcare workforce.](#)
- The NHS and wider care sector face a deepening workforce crisis, with [over 121,000 vacancies as of early 2024](#) and projections of a [360,000 shortfall by 2036/37 if unaddressed.](#)
- Skills shortages, amidst increased service demand, are in large part responsible for the crisis.
- While young people's aspirations increasingly align with government priority sectors, regional interest is uneven

Gender:

Male  7%

Female  24%

Economic disadvantage:

FSM  16%

Non-FSM  16%

Young people's profile

Most young people interested in health aspire to roles such as:

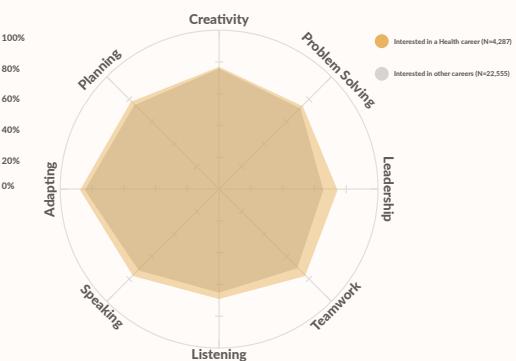
- Doctor (53%)
- Nurse (33%)
- Care/Social worker (18%)
- Research (9%)

These young people are more likely to report understanding **A-levels** (+7%pts), **T-levels** (+3%pts) and other vocational routes such as **BTEC** (+1%pt), but slightly less likely to report understanding **apprenticeships** than their peers (-1%pt).

Those interested in careers in the health sector **outperform peers on all eight essential skills**, particularly Leadership (+9%pts) and Teamwork (+7%pts).

Fig. 2: They are more likely to be confident in all eight Essential Skills than their peers

% of learners responding positively to



Source: Futures Skills Questionnaire data, end of July 2025 (Year 11 responding to the industry/career question, N=26,842) responding to the industry/career question, N=26,842

Fig. 3: Interest in the Health sector varies by region

% Year 11 learners expressing interest in the Health sector, by region

