**International Healthcare Policy**

To explore the international context for healthcare policy and organisation of healthcare. To understand contemporary issues and promotion of public health. Learners should understand the political, social and cultural issues that help to determine healthcare policy and be able to critically assess the policies and practice in one specific context.

**Indicative Content**

**1. Understand healthcare policy formation in an international context**

Approaches

• National health services, private health services, local/national organisation, national priorities

Funding models

• Public funding, private funding, charity funding and mixed funding, non-governmental organisations

Policies

• Policies in different specific national contexts; study of approach and policy in one national context

**2. Understand the social and cultural context of healthcare**

Impacts

• Cultural and religious beliefs, education, class structure, cultural and social priorities in healthcare

Attitudes

• Concept of what health is, concept of what illness is, importance of health, attitudes to health and medical professionals

National context

• Contrast cultural and social priorities with national and policy priorities

**3. Understand healthcare provisioning**

Practice

• Organisation of healthcare e.g. hospitals, GPs and other services; national, local, regional; public, private or mixture

Organisations

• National health organisations (e.g. NHS in UK); international health organisations (e.g. World Health Organisation); national and international private providers; pharmaceutical companies, their role and practices; charities promoting and practicing health; the aims, administration and funding of organisations

Structure

• How health care is organised and delivered in a national context; practical barriers – e.g. accessibility in terms of social and transport issues; funding issues e.g. cost of treatment, private health insurance cost; safety issues, for example, in war, conflict or natural disaster areas

**4. Understand the role of public health and health promotion in the provision of healthcare services**

Socio-political issues

• Attitudes to pharmaceutical companies, new drugs and testing of drugs; political agenda in public health

Campaigns and policy

• How public health is promoted, priorities in public health promotion, link between priorities and politics

Health care promotion

• Concept of public health and health promotion, development of health and healthcare services, development of different attitudes to health and demand for healthcare

**5. Understand contemporary issues in healthcare**

Contemporary issues

• Identifying contemporary issues in international and chosen national context; analysing and explaining issues (e.g. issues such as AIDS, obesity) and relative importance in different societies

Impact on policy

• How national and international policy reflects contemporary issues; involvement of charities and World Health Organisation e.g. food/diet guidance from government in UK to combat obesity, smoking bans etc.

Practical responses

• Attitudes and practical responses to different issues e.g. supply of condoms to combat AIDS