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## WHEN DID YOU START WORKING IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK?

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I worked for the Youth Service for 14 years and then started my career in Children's Services 6 years ago working initially as a Leaving Care Personal Adviser and then Early Help Family Partner.

## WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK?

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I enjoyed my time in Children's Services as an otherwise qualified worker but I wanted to take the next step in my career progressions and this seemed like the options which would suit my interests the most.

## HOW DID YOU INITIALLY ENTER THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK?

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I completed an apprenticeship which meant I could continue to earn and learn at the same time.

## WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE YOU STARTED WORKING IN SOCIAL WORK?

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I worked for 14 years in the Youth Service supporting young people who were not in education, employment or training to address any barriers to progression and support them to achieve.

## DID YOUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES INFLUENCE YOUR DECISION TO PURSUE SOCIAL WORK?

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Yes, I have always enjoyed supporting others and I especially enjoy working with young people.

## HOW HAVE YOU FOUND THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING AS A SOCIAL WORKER IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

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It has been a lot of new learning and that is always a challenge but it is also very rewarding at times.

## **CAN YOU WALK US THROUGH SOME OF YOUR DAILY TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?**

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Most of my responsibilities are supporting young people who are looked after. This is making sure that they are thriving in their home life, school life and social life. There are often challenges when young people are unsettled due to their experiences. I also do some work with families who are in court proceedings regarding the care of the children. This involves many assessments and report writing.

## **WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF YOUR CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK SO FAR?**

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When a person I am supporting achieves something which has a positive impact on them or others- this could be anything big or small.

## **WOULD YOU RECOMMEND A CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING IT?**

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Yes, it's tough and frustrating at times but also very rewarding when you feel you can support people to make a difference.