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Apprentice Social Worker - Second Year

WHEN DID YOU START AS AN APPRENTICE SOCIAL WORKER?

I began my journey in the field of social work by working in various teams as an Adult Support Coordinator. In June 2020, I moved to the Learning Disability Partnership Team and started my Social Work Degree in January 2023.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK?

My motivation for pursuing a career in social work stems from wanting to make a positive impact on individuals. I am a compassionate and empathetic individual which fits well into the role of a Social Worker.

My experience in working in various teams has fuelled my passion for helping vulnerable individuals, building positive relationships and contributing to the well-being of the individuals I work with.

HOW DID YOU INITIALLY ENTER THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK?

I entered the field of social work by first completing my Health and Social Care Level 2 and Level 3. Obtaining a degree was the next step in pursuing my career as a social worker.

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

Before transitioning into social work, I gained valuable experience as a support worker/carer in various settings, including community, residential and supported living settings. This hands-on experience gave me a practical understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable individuals.

DID YOUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES INFLUENCE YOUR DECISION TO PURSUE SOCIAL WORK? IF SO - HOW?

My previous experiences as a support worker/carer in a variety of settings significantly influenced my decision to pursue a career in social work. These experiences provided firsthand insights into the challenges faced by individuals in various contexts, motivating me to seek a role where I could have a more comprehensive impact on the well-being of individuals I work with.

Having a half-brother in foster care played a personal role in my decision to pursue a career in social work, as it likely heightened my awareness of the importance of supportive and compassionate interventions when working with vulnerable individuals.

HOW HAVE YOU FOUND THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING AN APPRENTICE SOCIAL WORKER?

In my main role as an Adult Support Coordinator, this closely aligns with the role of a social worker. I find the role highly rewarding. Each day brings different challenges and opportunities, allowing me to make a positive impact on individual's lives and supporting them to make decisions.

As a student social worker, the experiencing of observing and reflecting on my practice has been enjoyable. This phase not only enhances my understanding, but also provides valuable insights into the practicable aspects of social work.

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

In my role as Adult Support Coordinator, my daily tasks include: Completing adult social care assessments, completing reviews, completing personalised care and support plans, completing mental capacity assessments, addressing safeguarding concerns, completing referrals to other teams, liaising with families and liaising with care providers.

I also participate in MDT meetings and collaborate with other professionals. In my role as Student Social Worker, my daily tasks include: Attending joint visits, attending joint meetings, observing/learning, reflecting on my practice, building professional relationships and adhering to ethical standards. The PCF framework and Social Work England set out the expectations for Social Work Students at different stages of their career.

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

The most rewarding aspect of my career in social work is the continuous learning and improvement of my practice. Advocating for individuals, promoting their voices and ensuring they are heard has also been rewarding.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND AN APPRENTICESHIP IN SOCIAL WORK TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING IT?

Yes! This profession offers an opportunity to make meaningful impact on the lives of individuals. Despite the challenges of social work, it provides personal and professional satisfaction due to being able to contribute to positive change and support those in need.