



Hannah Simon
Central Bedfordshire Council
Newly Qualified Social Worker - Family Support Team

WHEN DID YOU START AS AN APPRENTICE SOCIAL WORKER?

December 2021.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK?

I was always unsure as to what career path I wished to pursue.

Once I became a parent, I attended my Local Children's Centre with my son. Following on from this I began to volunteer within the centre and then applied for a permanent position. As I progressed and became a family support worker, my interest in social work was ignited and I knew that this was the direction I wanted to follow. I wanted to empower parents, and improve the lives of children and their families.

HOW DID YOU INITIALLY ENTER THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK?

I completed the Social Work Apprenticeship through my employer.

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

My previous experience is in child development and universal family support. I then moved to the Early Help Team within Children's Services prior to applying for the apprenticeship.

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

Yes, social work felt like the natural progression. I feel that my career to date has given me the foundational skills and knowledge that I needed to pursue social work.

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

I thoroughly enjoy my current role within a front line, fast paced team. It is highly rewarding, and no two days are the same. I am extremely fortunate to be a part of an amazing team and this helps my emotional wellbeing and resilience.

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

My daily responsibilities including visiting children and young people; at home, at school and within the community, chairing core group meetings, attending child protection conferences and completing Child and Family Assessments to assess the needs of the child or young person.

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

To see the positive changes a family made and to be a part of their journey walking alongside them. The positive impact that this had on their child was outstanding.

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

I would highly recommend a career in social work to someone who is considering it, some days are more challenging, however we strive for the best outcomes for our children and this is the focus of all our work.