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

I started working in the field of Social Work back in January 2022 as a Student Social Worker for a charity called The Matthew Project.

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

I wanted to work with refugees and asylum seekers, and I thought that social work would be the perfect place for me to start. Another motivating factor was the different types of work that social workers carry out, the challenges they face, and the satisfaction you get from solving problems.

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

I entered the field of social work through education and after my undergraduate degree, I pursued my Masters in Social Work.

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

Before I started my placements and entered the field of social work, I was completing my degree in BA (Hons) Economics.

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

Yes - while pursuing my economics degree, I was reading a lot of international relations and conflicts stories from around the world, which led to my interest to support refugees and asylum seekers and hear their stories. That was one of the main reasons I decided to pursue social work.

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

My current role has been really exciting. In this role, every day is different, and you are dealing with different issues with various levels of complexity. At the same time, it is a very rewarding role as well.

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

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I am currently working with some of the resettled refugee families in Norfolk, with the primary goal to ensure that they all get the help to become independent. Most of the people I work with experience language barriers, which requires me to use different methods including an interpreter to communicate. One of my daily tasks involves me trying to teach them about the functioning of the various institutions in the UK and local services that they could access.

Other responsibilities also include work and coordinate with various departments to ensure that the clients were getting the support they are entitled to. These agencies/departments included the Department of Work and Pensions, schools, health, and other voluntary organisations. Social workers in the team are also responsible for taking a lead in the duty team; dealing with the day-to-day referrals and clients coming into the office along with the development workers, advising the development workers on complex cases when required and backing decision with the relevant legislation.

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

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One of the most rewarding aspects of the career has been being trusted with the responsibility to take a lead on the resettlement of a group of Afghan refugees who arrived in Norfolk. Another rewarding aspect was being awarded Student Social Worker of the Year award.

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

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Yes, social work is a very interesting, rewarding and equally challenging field. If you are motivated to make a change in the community, I would highly recommend this field.