

## Ashley

I am a locality worker based in Airdrie locality support services which is an adult service for individuals with disabilities.

I assess and plan the individual's needs, I have allocated paperwork time where it's my role to complete paperwork for service users that I am key worker to and at other times I'm out supporting people in the community, supporting them to achieve their outcomes, that could involve going to the gym, swimming or even supporting that person to get their shopping or we could support people with their banking.

For anybody that's hoping to start a career in health and social care, the first thing I would do is do some research into it by talking to, maybe a family member or your careers advisor or even visiting a place that you know, will allow you to get more knowledge and it could maybe lead to you volunteering some of your spare time that you're not at school or college.

I'm also studying with the Open University doing the social work courses through North Lanarkshire Council they do a secondment scheme, so in the next year I hope to apply for that and go on to become a student social worker. I knew that working in a classroom environment wasn't for me, so through working full-time I could also go down different routes such as Open University and doing different qualifications.

The best part my job I would say, is seeing the end results for service users. To see the lifestyle change for that person, it's a big pat on the back for you as a worker to see that person's life turning around but also working with different people every day and getting to know new things every day is a big plus of the job.

Every day is different, we work with different people all the time and you're in different environments all the time so everything's interesting and new.

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## Ciaran

I am a locality support worker based within Airdrie locality support services and disabilities.

Within my role as a locality support worker is support service users to help achieve individual goals. So that can be, independent travel, where we show someone how to get the bus or maybe the train themselves to wherever it is they would like to go.

Some people maybe that live themselves need a bit of a hand dealing with their own finances. We help them to go to maybe the bank to pay for bills, to maybe pick up groceries, do their own shopping.

I had looked into health and social care and my careers officer had looked into it and had helped kinda explain what career paths I could go down working in health and social care. And I actually got the chance to do a week's work experience.

I realised that this was the job I wanted to do. I was lucky enough to get accepted onto a modern apprenticeship. That started off as a 12 week traineeship, after the 12 week training program I had the opportunity to go on to a years modern apprenticeship

Waking up everyday knowing that you're going to meet a service user to maybe take them to an activity or to help them out with something you get to see the enjoyment and the pleasure somebody gets out of that. I don't think there's much better you can ask for.

In any kind of job you get your good days and bad days and I have to say I've had more good days in here than bad days working as a support worker.

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## Lorna

I'm a trainee social worker with North Lanarkshire Council. My role is to ensure that children and families are protected from harm and safeguarded. We receive referrals from police, education, health, the public and also reports from the children's reporter to carry out assessment.

I started from 16 in social work department as an admin worker. I was supported by North Lanarkshire Council to gain relevant qualifications in the field of admin. Being in this role enabled me to see the role of a social worker and the positive impact it can have on people's lives. This inspired me to then further progress my career by studying in my own time, volunteering with relevant care groups. I was successful in applying for my final 2 years of the social work degree which North Lanarkshire sponsored me for.

Working in social work is a challenging role and it can be very stressful. It requires you to have emotional stability to deal with sensitive issues. Personal qualities also need to include being open and honest given the nature of the issues that you can be presented with. However it is a very rewarding role, you get to build up relationships with people in the community who feel disadvantaged, breaking down barriers to society and making people have better life opportunities.

What I love most about the role of a social worker is the challenges that we face and that it is not office based. We are out and about everyday, we are linking in with health visitors, education and building up good relationships.

If you're thinking about having a career in social work, I thoroughly recommend it. It is a very challenging role but it's very rewarding. It requires you to have passion for caring for those in needs, to be a caring person.

With North Lanarkshire Council you are supported through career progression and that is ongoing training opportunities and further qualifications which North Lanarkshire do support you to gain. It is a very rewarding role. You are busy and challenged on a daily basis but I thoroughly recommend it and I really enjoy my role.

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## Home Care Recruitment

When I retired I thought I was done with work, but my elderly neighbour said I should give this a try.

Most of my friends work in bars or shops, this work suits me a lot more.

I can't imagine doing anything else, there are people I care for, whose faces genuinely light up when they see me.

Being a carer keeps me fit and active and I enjoy the variety.

I can see the difference I'm making and I have a good laugh with the people I care for.

It feels right to be helping others while I can, who knows, it might be me needing the help one day.

I'm gaining so much experience, which is great for my CV.

It's hard work, but it's so rewarding.

When my daughter starts school, I plan to speak to my supervisor about further opportunities.

I really believe I get as much out of the role as the people I care for do.

It's so rewarding knowing how appreciated I am.

Day after day, everyday.