

Care in Scotland it's life changing work

Ashley Sparks, Support Worker


**"I enjoy working with people
and helping them realise their
potential."**

Ashley works as a support worker in a care home and enjoys helping people to realise their potential.

What type of service do you work in? Care at home.

Have you always worked in social services? No, I was a student and a retail assistant.

What made you choose the career you have now? I enjoy working with people and helping them realise their potential. Personal/family experiences gave me the motivation to work in the support/care sector and I would love it if this type of work helped me progress in my career.





Can you tell us more about your job?

I support men with learning disabilities with their daily living activities such as cooking, cleaning and supporting the men to gain more skills/independence within their home. I make sure all the service users are safe by creating necessary risk assessments/support plans especially for the individual that I am key worker for. I help with the management of the individual's finances and administration of medication in accordance to Gowrie Care's policy and procedures.

Can you give us an example of something that you are working on at the moment?

As well as my day to day duties I am also a champion for creating a quarterly newsletter to show each individual's progress and sharing what they have been up to every three months with their family. I also work on creating pictorial communication aids for each person.

What qualifications do you need for this job?

I require an SVQ 3 in health and social care which I am currently working towards achieving.

Who else is in your team?

As a support worker I have a line manager and unit manager. I work with six other support workers and there are also assistant support workers that help with co-key working duties alongside me and other support workers.


Do you work with other professionals in other sectors eg health, teaching, justice?

I work with social workers, dieticians, nurses, GP's and other professionals as it is part of my role to help my service user work with these professionals to ensure their health/welfare is in good condition.

What part of your job motivates you and why?

The fact that it can help me move on to a career in social work, seeing good results and happy service users.





What are the best bits about your job?

Helping others.

What are the challenges, good and not so good that you face in your job?

It's challenging seeing my service users with poor health.

In what way is your career in social services rewarding?

Helping others realise their potential and seeing the individuals gain more independence living in their own home.

Can you explain the skills and qualities you think are needed to do the role you're doing?

Empathy, understanding, good team working, understanding SSSC Codes of Practise ie maintaining dignity, respect, fairness and equality.

Has your job opened up new learning and development for you?

Gaining an SVQ 2, mandatory training.

How do you see your career progressing?

I want to go on to university and if not then progress to management.

What would you say to someone thinking about a career in social services?

Do it! For the enjoyment of making others happy.

Is a career in care the career for you?

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