

# Care in Scotland it's life changing work

**Jonathan Rowan, Support Worker**

**"I always liked the idea of helping people who needed help to reach their full potential in life."**

**Jonathan works with young men who have autism. Read his story here.**

**What type of service do you work in?**

I work in a Gowrie Care outreach project supporting individuals with autism and a range of learning difficulties.

**Have you always worked in social services?**


I have not always worked in social care; I worked as a joiner before.


**What made you choose the career you have now?**

I always liked the idea of helping people who needed help to reach their full potential in life.

**Can you tell us more about your job?**

I work mostly with young men who have autism, each with individual needs and characters. As I am a support worker in an outreach project most days I am out in the community supporting individuals. No day is ever the same.





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

At the moment two other staff members and I are setting up a cycling group, we have received funding to buy bikes and storage for them. We are currently working with individuals from the service to see what ideas they can come up with.

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**What qualifications do you need for this job?**

You must be willing to work towards SVQ 2/3 in social services and healthcare.

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**Who else is in your team?**

We have a staff team of 12 with two managers who work out of our office.

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**Do you work with other professionals in other sectors?**

Yes we work with other professionals almost every day, doctors and other health professions.

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**What part of your job motivates you and why?**

The fact that I get to help people every day.

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**What are the best bits about your job?**

Seeing positive outcomes.

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

We sometimes face challenging behaviours (violence and aggression).

Sometimes, a good challenge can be getting to know new service users.

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**In what way is your career in social services rewarding?**

In every way.

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

You need to be outgoing and focused on wanting to make a difference to other people's lives, you need to be a good listener and talker, work well as part of a team and self motivated.





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

Yes I have received many certificates for training with the company. I have also had the chance to become an in-house trainer.

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**How do you see your carer progressing?**

In the future I would look to become either a senior support worker or look towards an assistant manager post.

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

Definitely go for it!

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## **Is a career in care the career for you?**

Try our interactive resource, **A question of care: a career for you** to see what a career in care is like. At the end you'll receive a detailed personal profile that tells you if you've got what it takes to join us!

You can hear from people already working in social care, early years or social work as they talk about why they love their job and what a difference they make to someone's life. And find out about the many different types of jobs and areas you can work in.

**For more information on careers in social services visit [sssc.uk.com](http://sssc.uk.com)**

**For more job profiles from across the social service sector visit [ssscnews.uk.com](http://ssscnews.uk.com)**

