

Care in Scotland it's life changing work

**Sarah Morrison,
Assistant Support Worker**

"Seeing the service users happy and content and being able to do new things is rewarding for staff to see."



Sarah works at Gowrie Care's Hillbank service where she cares for four adults with disabilities. [Read her story here](#)

What type of service do you work in?

Hillbank is a residential service where four service users live, each with different levels of needs and disabilities.

Have you always worked in social services?

No, I used to be a university student working in retail part time.

What made you choose the career you have now?

After I graduated I wanted to find a job working with people with disabilities.





Can you tell us more about your job?

Four service users require support with all aspects of their lives, for example shopping, cooking, personal care, going out in the community and socialising.

All the service users have care plans, support plans and risk assessments which the key workers and co-key workers keep up to date.

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

My medication toolkit which will allow me to administer medication to the service users.

What qualifications do you need for this job?

You must be willing to work towards an SVQ2 if you don't already have it.

Who else is in your team?

An assistant support worker, support workers, assistant manager, unit manager and an area manager.

Do you work with other professionals in other sectors?

I work with care managers, health care professionals, such as doctors, dentists, nurses etc.

What part of your job motivates you and why?

Seeing the service users happy and seeing them develop.


What are the best bits about your job?

Seeing the service users happy. Assisting them to have fun - such as shopping, going out for tea or socialising with friends and fellow housemates.

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

Challenging behaviour from service users and also when they're not well.

Shifts where we are short staffed - but it keeps us busy.





In what way is your career in social services rewarding?

Seeing the service users happy and content and being able to do new things is rewarding for staff to see.

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

Being a patient, hardworking, caring, empathetic, fun person.

Being able to do personal care .

Being able to have a laugh and a joke.

Being able to work with lots of different people and on your own.

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

Developed my understanding of the National Care Standards and the SSSC.

Also moving and handling, people skills and medication.

How do you see your career progressing?

Develop my skill set by pushing myself to complete paper work and new things I haven't done within my role so far.


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

It can be a tough job, but that it is rewarding and a great way to develop your understanding of working with those who have learning disabilities and mental health issues.

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

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