

Care in Scotland it's life changing work

Laurie Millen, Assistant Support Worker

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Laurie previously worked as a volunteer at the Royal Victoria hospital and this helped her choose her career with Gowrie Care.

What type of service do you work in?

I work in a supported accommodation where there are three service users who are all wheelchair users with learning difficulties. I undertake personal care, finance and giving the individuals an independent life.

Have you always worked in social services?


No, I worked in a pub while I was still at school.


What made you choose the career you have now?

My mum and gran are carers and I used to volunteer in the Royal Victoria Hospital so this experience made me want to get into care.

Can you tell us more about your job?

I am an assistant support worker. I help the service users to live an independent life and support them to do tasks they can't carry out.





	<p>I'm a co keyworker and I help the keyworker to make support plans and risk assessments for the service user's file to make sure they can live their life to the best of their ability.</p>
<p>Can you give an example of something that you are working on at the moment?</p>	<p>I am working on the newsletter for my project. I have been taking pictures of the service users doing things they enjoy and the events they have been to recently to show everyone that it can be done and they have fun.</p>
<p>What qualifications do you need for this job?</p>	<p>Willing to work towards an SVQ 2.</p>
<p>Who else is in your team?</p>	<p>Support workers, assistant support workers, assistant managers and line managers.</p>
<p>Do you work with other professionals in other sectors eg health, teaching, justice?</p>	<p>Yes. Doctors, care managers, day centre staff and health professionals.</p>
<p>What part of your job motivates you and why?</p>	<p>The part that motivates me is the self achievement that you get seeing the service users happy and able to live their life through the help of staff.</p>
<p>What are the best bits about your job?</p>	<p>The best bits are getting to take the service users to do new things. You get to see the service users expand in their knowledge and do things they never thought they could.</p>
<p>What are the challenges, good and not so good that you face in your job?</p>	<p>Supporting individuals with end of life care can be good and not so good because you are supporting that individual to be as comfortable as possible.</p>





In what way is your career in social services rewarding?

It's rewarding because you are changing someone's life for the better.

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

The key skills and qualities that I think you need are patience and understanding.

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

My job has opened so many learning and development opportunities for me as I have done my SVQ 2 and I have been on so much training. I have learned how to speak Makaton to service users who have communication difficulties.

How do you see your carer progressing?

I would like to progress to be a support worker and further my knowledge.

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

I would say that a career in social services is a rewarding job and fun.

Is a career in care the career for you?

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