

focus on

a career in
social care

local government talent: careers



What is social care?

Social care is all about helping people. This rewarding and challenging work involves providing care, support and practical assistance for people who, for a number of reasons, find it difficult to carry out every day tasks themselves.

What kind of work would I be doing?

Some social care work may be based in residential homes for elderly people, those with disabilities or looked after children. Other types of work may involve visiting people to help them in their own homes. You may work on your own or as part of a team.

Often the work involves providing personal care; you might help an elderly person or someone with physical disabilities to wash, dress and feed themselves. Some roles may be based more around practical support in the home; you might do some cleaning and cook a meal. Other social care work might involve taking people to do their weekly shopping, helping them pay their bills or providing advice about filling in job applications or benefit forms.

Where can I find out more?

local government careers information,
job vacancies and talent pool:
www.LGtalent.com

national graduate development programme:
www.ngdp.co.uk

social care careers information website:
www.socialworkandcare.co.uk

Insider view: 'My main role is to manage a group of social care staff who provide support services to disabled, vulnerable, frail or elderly people, enabling them to continue living independently in their own homes. I love the challenge of never quite knowing what each day will bring. I have never been bored with my career. You feel a great amount of satisfaction when a service user receives appropriate support to help them remain in, or return to, their own home.'

What kind of jobs are there?

Here are some examples of social care related job roles:

- children's information service outreach worker
- day centre manager
- driver
- family support worker
- home care assistant
- rehabilitation worker
- residential care assistant
- youth worker.

What qualifications do I need?

Although there are often no specific minimum requirements, the qualifications you need will depend on the job you want to do. You may be able to gain qualifications whilst working, for example, an NVQ in Care or, if you're working with children, an NVQ in Early Years Care or Youth Work.

What skills do I need?

You need to be:

- an excellent communicator,
- friendly and caring,
- patient and respectful,
- sensitive to the needs of others,
- physically fit for any lifting or moving duties,
- flexible and calm under pressure.

How much would I get paid?

Salaries vary around the country and are dependent on the job you do, but care assistants may earn £10,900-15,800 per year.

Are there any other benefits?

Working for a local council can offer a lot of additional benefits, not least, the great feeling of being able to help people in your own community and do something worthwhile and rewarding.

Local councils may also offer some or all of the following: generous annual leave, flexible working hours, pension scheme membership, reduced price public transport, gym membership, crèche facilities, employee guidance and support groups.

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