

Social Work

Who are you?

My name is Neve and I am a social worker working in the Perth City Locality Team at Perth & Kinross Council.

How did you get into social work?

My career path in social work started when I left school and enrolled on the HNC Social Services course. I completed a practice placement that involved delivering a learning development course to people with physical and learning disabilities. This was my first insight in the social care sector, and I really enjoyed it. My initial plan was to apply for my undergraduate social work degree; however, I chose to gain more knowledge in a broader context and completed my degree in criminology and sociology. During this course, I completed social work modules and carried out various volunteering opportunities within YMCA. This included being involved in YMCA's early intervention mentoring programme, which worked with young people aged 8-14 years old. The programme aimed to reduce offending and encouraged young people to make positive life choices. My role consisted of providing 1:1 support to young people in the community every week, working closely with parents and partner agencies such as social work. After this experience, I knew I wanted social work to be the next step in my career which led to me applying for my Masters Social Work degree with Dundee University.

Where I am now

I am currently working as a qualified social worker within the Perth City Locality Team at Perth & Kinross Council. The Perth City Team is a long-term adult statutory social work team that works with adults over the age of 16. This team has provided me with a lot of valuable experience due to the variety of different clients they support including young and older adults, people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health, drug and alcohol use, dementia, autism and unpaid carers. This role has helped me develop the knowledge, skills and values that I learned throughout my time at University and practice experiences. I found the Perth City Team to be particularly supportive being a newly qualified social worker as we are always encouraged to participate in training opportunities to further develop and improve your practice. Having such a wide variety of work is also great experience if you are still trying to discover what area you would like to specialise in.