



Shannon Moley

Social Worker

Can you give us a brief outline of your work history?

I completed my social work degree in October 2021. During my degree, I completed placements within addictions and learning disability services. In November 2021, I secured a Band 5 AYE (Assessed Year in Employment) post in Craigavon Hospital. I was able to complete my Assessed Year in Employment in this post and have now moved up to a Band 6 post. I am due to begin a new and exciting role in an Integrated Care Team in May 2023.

What made you decide this career path?

I have always enjoyed caring for and supporting others and knew that I wanted to have a career within a caring profession. I had supportive teachers when making my choices for university courses who were able to provide me with advice and support on career options. I was drawn to social work as it is a role that allows me to form close relationships with service users and their families to promote independence and advocate for their needs, ensuring that they are supported and have appropriate care in place.

How did you train for this role/educational route?

I had completed my A-Levels in 2018 and went to Liverpool Hope University in October 2018 to complete my BA (Hons) Social Work degree. Following the completion of my degree, I secured a role in Craigavon Hospital and have recently completed my AYE here.

What qualities are required for your job – both personal and professional?

- Have an empathetic approach when working with service users and their families to build relationships.
- Practice person-centred care to ensure service users are fully involved in their own care and effectively supported to make informed decisions.
- Advocacy skills for service users and their families to ensure their concerns are listened to and actioned.
- Ability to work as part of a team – my role involves Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) working to ensure that service users' care needs are appropriately identified and met.
- Openness and honesty are vital in building trusting relationships.
- Good time management and organisational skills are essential in social work in order to attend meetings or complete assessments on a daily basis.
- Continual training and development to consistently improve skills and practice. I recently completed my AYE which provided essential skills to build upon throughout my career. Over the next 3 years, I will need to work towards completing my Professional in Practice (PIP) to continually learn and develop so that I can maintain my registration as a social worker.

What does a typical day involve?

A typical day in my role would involve attending the ward MDT meetings each morning to get an overview of what is happening with each patient and discuss potential discharge plans. I would have to meet with patients and their families to organise discharge plans such as packages of care or placements, and then complete a NISAT assessment.

I work closely alongside nursing staff, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists in order to fully assess patients' needs and identify the most suitable discharge pathway.

My role mainly involves working with older people; however, there is a wide scope of practice within the hospital which can include mental health, learning disability, domestic abuse, or safeguarding referrals for both children and adults.

What do you like best about your job?

No day is ever the same. There is always something new to do and new opportunities to undertake.

What advice would you give anyone thinking of doing your job?

Take every opportunity you are offered; there is never a day that goes by without learning something new. It can be difficult, but it is an extremely rewarding career.