



Victoria Porter

Senior Social
Work Practitioner

Introduce yourself. Where do you work? What is your job role?

I'm Victoria, I'm 25yrs old and my job title is 'Senior Social Work Practitioner' in a Community Adult Learning Disability Team.

What does your job entail?

No day is the same. I work with adults with a learning disability, as well as their families/carers, in a multidisciplinary team, aiming to empower them to have control over their own lives and the support they receive. Our goal is to enable adults with a learning disability to live healthy, active lives within their community.

How did you get into this line of work?

I always wanted to work with people, for people. As a teenager I started volunteering for a Mencap affiliated social club for children and young adults with a learning disability. My passion for learning disability started then and unconsciously lead my career path.

Outline your career to date?

I completed my degree and thought I would join an agency and move around different teams to find the service that suited me best. I started my Band 5 AYE (Assessed and Supported Year in Employment) as an agency member of staff in a Community Adult Learning Disability Team (the same team I currently work in). My intention to move around different teams as an agency member of staff vanished when I realized how much I enjoyed my role, great colleagues, and the service users. Since completing my AYE, I became a permanent Band 6 Social Worker and started post-qualifying modules, growing in confidence and competency in my practice. I then applied for the Senior Practitioner role in the team, where I remain.

Tell us about your qualifications and training?

I completed a three-year undergraduate Bachelor of Social Work degree. During the degree, I undertook two practice learning opportunities. Since qualifying, I have undergone extensive training from my AYE to my current Senior Practitioner role.

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

A number of qualities are required, but most importantly, a caring nature. Social workers are not in the job for the money or gratitude but because they genuinely care. As social workers registered with NISCC, we must adhere to the standards of conduct and practice.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

"You can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone"- don't feel the pressure to 'fix' everyone/everything, rather sometimes the smallest interventions in people's lives makes the biggest difference.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Shopping.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I'm scared of swans because when I was a child a swan chased me around the park pond, apparently, I would not part with the bread fast enough.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

The resilience of everyday people in the face of such adversity.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Keep calm and carry on.