



SOCIAL AND FAMILY SERVICES

INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIAL CARE SECTOR

The services that the Social Care sector provides are vital to society and is in constant need of qualified, skilled graduates to discover how to pursue a rewarding career in the sector. There are more than 1.5 million people working in the sector in 38,000 different settings. The adult social care sector alone contributes an estimated 43 billion pounds to the economy. Employment areas within the sector include childcare and early years, child protection, community work and day care, counselling, fostering and adoption, probation and more.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Volunteering is a great way to gain experience in a social care role. It allows hands-on experience, and it will give you chance to explore different areas within the sector. You can volunteer in schools, youth clubs and community settings, supporting elderly or disabled clients, with charities or mental health organisations.



PROGRESSION ROUTES

BA (Hons) Human Behavioural Studies – Truro and Penwith College

BSc (Hons) Applied Social Science – Truro College

MA Youth and Community Work – Marjon University

CAREERS

- Adult Guidance Worker
- Family Support Worker
- Counsellor
- Care Manager
- Probation Officer
- Teaching Assistant
- Social Worker
- Youth Worker

SALARY

Salaries within the Social Care sector vary depending on role and organisation. Example of average starting salaries for different roles within the sector are:

- **Family Support Worker** – starting salaries are typically between £18,000 and £24,000.
- **Probation Officer** – during training for the National Probation Service you can earn around £22,000.
- **Youth Support Worker** – starting salary in the region of £18,000.

KEY SKILLS

- Empathy and commitment
- Problem solving skills
- Communication
- Presentation
- Management and supervision
- Able to work independently
- Organisation
- Teamwork
- Critical thinking
- Non-judgemental practice



CVS AND JOB INTERVIEWS

WHAT IS A CV AND JOB INTERVIEW?

A CV or Curriculum Vitae is a written summary of your skills and qualifications that can be attached to a job application or presented on its own to promote yourself to potential employers. A job interview is when the employer finds out if you are the right person for the job in terms of your professional, personal, and interpersonal skills. It is also the chance for you to decide whether it is the right job for you.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A CV?

- Contact details
- Personal profile
- Your education history
- Your work experience history
- Hobbies, interests, and achievements
- References

KEY TIPS ON WRITING A CV

- Create different versions of your CV for different roles that you might consider
- Be concise and to the point
- Proofread and check spelling and grammar
- Match the sections of information with the skills description linked to the role or identified in the job advert
- Always send with a covering letter

KEY TIPS ON PREPARING FOR A JOB INTERVIEW

- Plan your journey
- Prepare your clothes the night before
- Be polite, friendly, and professional
- Body language is significant in terms of creating a good impression
- Answer the questions as fully as you can, using good examples to illustrate your skills

SKILLS FOCUSED CV

This often provides a mini profile of you as an individual and then provides examples that demonstrate evidence of you being able to apply the main skills you have developed in various areas of your life that employers are looking for. This type of CV is also useful if you have gaps in your employment history, limited experience or are applying for a job which is unrelated to your degree.

CHRONOLOGICAL CV

Sometimes known as a traditional CV, it is used to match your qualifications and work experience with the requirements for the job role. This type of CV is structured in reverse chronological order i.e. the most recent qualifications and experience are listed first. This CV template makes it easy for employers to identify potential candidates and for you to match your qualifications, work history and responsibilities with the criteria on the job description.

CREATIVE CV

A creative CV is used in customer-facing and creative roles in marketing, arts, sales, and media. It can allow you to provide links to an online portfolio or video to create an impact and give a glimpse into who you are and how you can help organisations grow and deliver value to their customers.

ACADEMIC CV

Focusing on educational achievements, this type of CV is used when applying for teaching or research-based roles. They differ to other CVs and include sections on publications, teaching experience, research activities, conferences, and presentations. It is important to keep the CV concise and to target it to the role's requirements.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Prospects: example CVs, cover letters, interview questions

Student Job: tips on how to write a CV, the interview and CV examples and templates

REED: preparing for a job interview



LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

WHAT IS LMI?

Labour Market Information (LMI) describes all kinds of information used to make labour market decisions. LMI can be a compilation of detailed data on jobs and salaries, employers and employees, sectors, current employment conditions and future trends. Basically, LMI serves to inform on how you can recognise:

- Employment trends
- What job opportunities are out there
- What qualifications and skills are required for specific routes?
- What jobs will be in demand in the future?
- How you can prepare yourself for an ever-changing job market
- The level of competition out there
- Sector specific information
- Equal opportunity and diversity within the work force
- Earnings
- Geographic/regional opportunity

JOB SEARCH WEBSITES

Career Pilot: looks at sector information, specific job profiles, salary information and video case studies.

National Careers Service: see how many of the 800 job profiles can help illustrate career activities and offer online guidance.

Get In Go Far: Government portal for information about apprenticeships, with a link website to find live apprenticeship vacancies.

Federation for Industry Sector Skills & Standards: provides sector-specific carers information for young people through the network of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs).

LMI WEBSITES

CEOS LEP: Obtain the labour market summaries for your LEP area, which will provide useful information on major employers, sectors and developing trends.

LMI for All: online data portal that connects and standardises existing sources of high quality, reliable LMI.

Nomis: your one-stop shop for Labour Market Information with summary pages providing key trend data about local areas.

iCould: provides 1,000 different video clips of LMI and personal career stories to help students explore different career routes and pathways. Try the Buzz Quiz!

Office for National Statistics: gives regional LMI.

The Resolution Foundation: independent think-tank focused on improving living standards, looking at a wide range of economic and social policy areas and data.

BUSINESS IN CORNWALL

Cornwall Chamber: insight into business activity and developments in Cornwall through the Chamber of Commerce.

Business Cornwall: looks at all the latest updates in the local business community.