



Make a difference

**work in
social
care**

[www.skillsforcare.org.uk/
thinkcarecareers](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/thinkcarecareers)

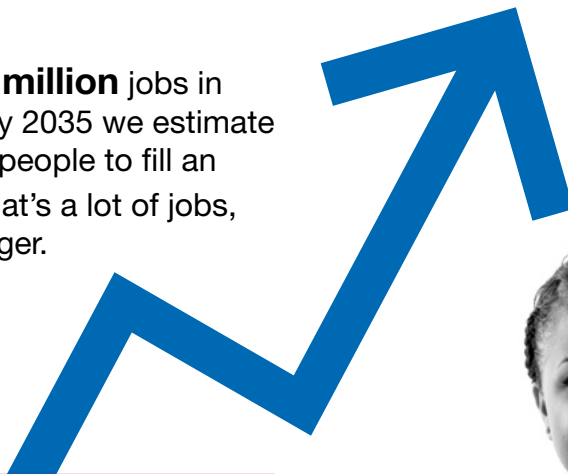
Why choose social care?

A career in social care offers long-term employment prospects, with opportunity for promotion and progression as well as job security.

Adult social care is one of the few sectors where jobs are increasing, offering significant numbers of long-term career opportunities in the current job market.



There are currently **1.6 million** jobs in adult social care, and by 2035 we estimate that we'll need enough people to fill an additional **650,000**. That's a lot of jobs, and it's only getting bigger.



If you want to make a difference to people's lives, a career in social care gives you the opportunity to do that

Julie, Support Coordinator



What jobs could I do?

Somewhere in your community there's a job that you can do to help others. If you like working with people, social care offers a worthwhile job that can turn into a rewarding, long-term career. Here are some of the many roles available:

Care worker

They are frontline staff in all care settings. Working with lots of different people who need care and support, they support them with their overall care, comfort and well-being.



Personal assistant

Personal assistants, or PAs, are directly employed by an individual rather than an organisation. They could work with someone in their place of work, at home or in the community.

Manager

They manage the day-to-day running of social care services. They also maintain standards and support staff with care planning, needs assessment and staff training.



Activity worker

These workers design and deliver social activities for people who need care and support. This could be in a residential home, a community centre or in someone's own home.

Where do I start?

There are different things you can do to help you find work in the sector.

To kick-start your career in social care it's a good idea to do one (or all!) of the following:

- check out the job types available on Think Care Careers and see what roles might interest you: www.skillsforcare.org.uk/thinkcarecareers
- visit your local Jobcentre Plus and ask them about opportunities in social care. They might also offer pre-employment training
- write to the local care providers (for example care homes) in your community, and ask them about any vacancies they may have
- search online for jobs in social care in your local area. Find up-to-date job vacancies at www.everydayisdifferent.com/job-search.aspx
- an apprenticeship is a great route into the sector - visit www.skillsforcare.org.uk/apprenticeships
- speak to a careers adviser at your school, college or local Jobcentre Plus.

Volunteering in a caring capacity might also be a good idea whilst you're looking for a job.

This will give you some experience and show your prospective employer your willingness to work in the sector.



There's plenty of times I've left work feeling uplifted... it's very rewarding to help other people and see how you make a difference to their lives

Care Worker



Could you work in social care?

Your values and how you treat people who need care and support is really important. You'll be working directly with all sorts of people, with different care and support needs and you may be responsible for their wellbeing.

Have a look at the questions below and see if you have what it takes to work in social care.

	Yes	No
Do you want a job that makes a positive difference to other people's lives?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you reliable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you handle working under pressure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you work to deadlines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you handle instructions, procedures or policies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you happy to chat and put people at ease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have good writing skills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you use a diary or fill in forms and reports?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you think you are a good listener?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you understand other people's feelings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you respect other people's values and beliefs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privacy and dignity – do you think they're everyone's right?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you up for training to develop your own work skills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



More yeses than nos? Why not look into a job in social care?

A Question of Care is an online quiz showing common situations that might occur in an everyday social care role. You'll answer questions to help you learn about the values needed to make a great care worker.

www.aquestionofcare.co.uk

Find out more

Interested in a career in social care? We have information and advice to help.



Think Care Careers is a website that helps you to find out what job roles there are in social care and the range of skills and qualifications you need.

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/thinkcarecareers



A Question of Care: a career for you is an interactive tool that uses videos to recreate common situations that might occur in a day-to-day social care role. At the end you receive a detailed personal profile telling you if you've got what it takes.

www.aquestionofcare.org.uk



The Graduate Management programme offers a one-year placement in a social care and health management role.

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/graduates



Social care apprenticeships are a great route into social care if you want to gain experience and complete a qualification whilst working and earning a wage.

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/socialcareapprenticeships

Your local Jobcentre Plus, careers advisor or local college might be able to offer support about:

Employability support

Practical support or training to help you develop the skills and attitudes to help you find and keep work.

Pre-employment training

This is a short course designed to give a good idea of what it would be like to work in social care and helps you develop the skills to get started.

Job search and vacancy lists

Access to online vacancy lists and practical help with finding and applying for roles.

