

Proud to Care

DONCASTER



Social Workers

Assessing what type of support a person may need



What is a Social Worker?

Social workers aim to improve people's lives by helping with social and interpersonal difficulties, promoting human rights and wellbeing. Social workers protect children and adults with support needs from harm. This can be anything from helping, keep a family under pressure together, to supporting someone with mental health problems, social work is a varied, demanding, often emotional and very rewarding career.

Social workers work with a number of people at any one time. This is often referred to as a caseload. Day-to-day work involves assessing people's needs, strengths and wishes, working with individuals and families directly to help them make changes and solve problems, organising support, making recommendations or referrals to other services and agencies, and keeping detailed records.

The problems social workers deal with are often rooted in social or emotional disadvantage, discrimination, poverty or trauma. Social workers recognise the bigger picture affecting people's lives, work towards an equal, and just society where human rights are respected and protected.

In all roles, you will be trained and skilled to bring about change. You will also be skilled in using relevant legal powers to protect people's rights (and sometime balance the rights of everyone involved). This combination of skills is unique to the social work profession.

As a Social Worker, there are different teams in which you can work; here are just a few of the options available:



Sensory Team

Social Workers in the Sensory Team assess people who are partially sighted / blind or hard of hearing /deaf. A Social Worker may already have British sign language skills or can be supported / qualified to communicate with people through the council as part of their professional development needs. Social Workers provide advice, information and guidance on the everyday life situations people with sensory difficulties may face. This can include physical issues, financial support, and communication with other agencies, and signposting for specialist help such as legal support or support for family members.

Adult Social Care Team

Working with adults over the age of 18 years old with physical disabilities and with older people. People may present with safeguarding issues, hoarding, self-neglect, alcohol misuse, dementia and homelessness. Social Workers will listen to people and assess their wellbeing under the guidance set out in the Care Act. Social Workers aim to support people in their aspirations no matter their age and keep people as independent as possible (with support where needed) to live a full life in their own home.





Mental Health

Help people with all part of their lives. This can include helping them to find somewhere to live, to manage their money or make sure that they have enough to eat, but also to keep and make friends. All of these things can affect how a person feels in their mental health, how they cope with stress and how they deal with problems. People with mental health problems often lose confidence and sometimes do not go out with their friends, sometimes they become very lonely. At times people lose hope and do not want to live at all, sometimes trying to end their lives. We try to help people to find other ways of coping. We work closely and together with other professionals such as Doctors, Nurses, Police, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists as well as charities. We always try to support the person and their family who often have to care for them at home.



Safeguarding Adults Hub (SAH)

Involved in taking referrals when there are concerns about an adult. The Social Workers' role is to keep people safe. They will assess the level of concern by looking at the different areas of the person's life, their current levels of support (do they have enough or need any more?) and if the concern is really worrying, consider what can be done, working with the person themselves or with others / services to reduce the worries.





How do I become a Social Worker

'Social worker' is a protected title, so the routes to qualifying as a social work professional are regulated by Social Work England. It is important to ensure you enrol on an 'approved' course.

There are many different routes into the world of Social Work – here are three of the different routes:

School Leavers

Initially you will need to have gained 5 GCSE's, and MUST have English & Maths at grade 4 or above. From here, you have 2 options available, you can complete A Levels or go to a college of your choice to complete a 12 months access to Social Work qualification. You will need to have a minimum of 240 UCAS points to move on to University to complete a Social Work Degree.

To gain a placement at University, you will also need to have some Social Care work Experience; this can be achieved via Paid work, Voluntary work, and placement or lived experiences.

Already hold a degree? (In any subject)

As you already have a Degree, you are able to go straight to University to complete a Master Degree in Social Work. You would still be required to have Social Care Experience of some description and evidence this to the University of your Choice.

Experienced Care Worker

If you have worked in the Adult Social Sector and have gained qualifications such as Diploma's at levels 3 or above, you are able to apply through the UCAS route, but would need to speak with the University of your Choice, to discuss the entry levels for your current Qualifications and experience.



We want every person in Doncaster to live in the place they call home with the people and things that they love, in communities where they look out for one another, doing things that matter to them.

Sometimes we need some support to live the life we choose and to do the things that are important to us. This support may come from a mix of family members, friends and neighbours, local community groups and voluntary organisations, and people employed in caring roles, like Support Workers, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists or Personal Assistants.

There are lots of different jobs in social care in Doncaster and we're sure there will be a job here for you!



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Contact us on:

Email proudtocare@doncaster.gov.uk

Telephone **01302 737908**

to speak to one of our team.

Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm.