

“SOCIAL CARE FOR GRADUATES: COMPASSIONATE EMBRACE”

You may not need a degree to work in social care, but many graduates with a desire to help the vulnerable are finding rewarding careers within the sector. Being a carer comes with emotional pressure and demanding challenges, but for some graduates working in social care has proved the most satisfying step they have ever taken.

"I was going to do my master's, but then I realised I needed to do something real", says Colette Lotscher, 24, a graduate with a degree in literature who now works as a personal care assistant in Greenwich, London. At present, Lotscher is working with children with mental or physical disabilities and their families, helping parents and burntout mother to cope with the day-to-day reality of caring for a child with special needs. "It is tough, but you grow so much, you learn how to be tolerant and to become a better person", she says.

Social care workers are often confused with social workers, but the two are distinctly different; you need a degree to practise as a social worker, but you don't need any particular qualifications to go into social care as a carer. Social work usually deals with case-by-case scenarios, where a situation is complex enough to involve local authorities, the NHS (National Health Service), the police or probation services, whereas social care involves delivering practical and emotional support to the vulnerable, elderly or ill- either in residential homes or to families in need.

Over the next few years, the Department of Health is expected to advertise 200,000 job vacancies in the social care sector- providing opportunities for graduates and career changers. Phil Hope, care services minister says: "As the number of people who may need help with day-to-day continues to grow, this sector will offer an increasing number of opportunities for those looking for jobs. Workers in social care have a big, positive impact on the people the work with".

I. COMPREHENSION

1. Why is working in social care so satisfying?

Working in social care is satisfying because carers improve their personality, that is, they learn the meaning of tolerance and they feel better with themselves.

2. What is the difference between working as a social worker and working as a social carer?

Working as a social worker involves having a degree and working in difficult situations with the support of the police or NHS. If you want to work as a social carer you do not need a degree and your job will consist of giving support to ill people.

3. Why is the government going to advertise so many jobs in the social care sector?

The government has taken this decision because there has been an increase in the number of people who need this type of help. Therefore, this is a good opportunity for people to get a job.

Are these statements true or false? Justify your answers with the precise words or phrases from the text, or use your own words.

4. If you want to become a social carer, you have to go to university.

False.

“You may not need a degree to work in social care” (Line 1)

“You need a degree to practise as a social worker, but you don’t need any particular qualifications to go into social care as a carer”.

5. Social carers do not influence the people they work with.

False.

“Workers in social care have a big, positive impact on the people they work with”.

II. USE OF ENGLISH

6. Fill in the gap with the correct option: "Social carers _____ people with special needs"

Look up/ Look for/ **Look after**/ Look on

7. Find in the text the word which has the following definition: "a physical problem that makes someone unable to use one part of their body properly"

Disabilities

8. Find in the text one synonym for "hard" (adjective)

Tough

9. Which word is not an adverb? Actually/ often/ elderly/ usually

Elderly

10. Give a question for the underlined words: "Social workers need a university degree"

What do social workers need?

11. Fill in the gap with a correct form of the verb in brackets: "By this time next year, I _____ (finish) my studies".

will have finished

12. Complete the following conditional sentence: "If you gave up smoking, you _____"

you would have a healthier life.

13. Join the following sentences using a relative. Make changes if necessary: "Many graduates feel the need to do something different when they get their degree. Many graduates decide to become social carers".

Many graduates feel the need to do something different when they get their degree so they decide to become social carers.

As many graduates feel the need to do something different when they get their degree, they decide to become social carers.

III. PRODUCTION

14. Write a composition of approximately 120 words. Choose one of the following options, and focus strictly on it. Specify your option.

A) "Old people should live in residential homes". Discuss.

B) If you had to do some work in social care, who would you like to take care of? Give reasons.