

What is Social Care?

- Social care provides care, practical and emotional support and safeguards to people with a wide range of needs arising from disability, illness, ageing or other life situation for e.g. homelessness, mental ill health, addiction and/or drugs dependency.
- Social care enables people to live as independently as possible.
- Social care requires a wide range of personal qualities such as patience, understanding, sensitivity, empathy and the ability to listen and support.
- Social care is a challenging and complex occupation.

Who are Social Care Workers?

- They are people who make a difference to other people's lives.
- They are people who have a positive impact on others.
- They are people who care.
- They are people who are patient, understanding, empathetic, sensitive and non-judgemental.
- They are people who want to learn new skills and acquire new knowledge.
- They are men and women aged from 18 years and older.
- They are you and me.



Who uses Social Care Services?

- Our mothers and fathers
- Our grandparents
- Our brothers and sisters
- Our children
- Our friends
- You and I

Do I need to register with NISCC?

There are over 38,000 people working in social care across NI – the largest workforce within the health and social care system in NI. This workforce includes social care workers, social care managers, social workers, probation officers, education welfare officers and social work students. They work across a range of care services; in residential and day centres, community facilities and supported living accommodation and in people's homes.

NISCC is responsible for registering the workforce; ensuring that they meet the standards set out in the NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers and Social Workers. The following groups of workers must be registered with the NISCC to work in the social care sector;

- **Social Care Worker: Adult Residential Home, Nursing Home, Children's Home, Domiciliary Care, Day Care and Supported Living**
- **Manager: Residential Care Home, Day Care Setting or Domiciliary Care Setting**
- **Social Worker and Social Work Student**

What does social care offer as a career?

- A **flexible career** with a huge range of jobs from which to choose.
- A job that makes a **difference** to the quality of life of the people with whom you work.
- **Career progression**: Many people who come in as care assistants or support workers and after gaining experience and acquiring an appropriate qualification, *can and do* progress to senior care and support roles as well as service manager roles.
- **Salary**: Those entering the workforce can expect to have a salary starting around £10,000 - £14,600 per year which could progress to around £28,000-34,600 per year as they gain experience and management responsibilities, or move into specialised areas of care.
- **Learning and Development**: Social care workers must update their skills and learning throughout their career. All NISCC registered workers must complete 90 hours of **post registration training and learning (PRTL)** during each three/five year registration period. They can achieve this through in-service courses, formal study or work-based qualifications such as; Diplomas in Health and Social Care. Normally, a social care worker would plan their training and development with their manager as part of their appraisal process.

Job Opportunities in Social Care

Social Care offers a wide range of job opportunities including working:

- in people's own homes,
- in day centres,
- in community centres,
- in residential or nursing homes.
- in supported living accommodation

Current job roles include:

- Domiciliary Care Worker/Manager
- Care Assistant/Senior Care Assistant
- Adult Residential Care Worker/Manager
- Day Care Worker/Senior Day Care Worker
- Day Care Manager
- Family support worker
- Support worker

Jobs in social care are provided by Health and Social Care Trusts and by independent, private and voluntary social care organisations.

Vacancies are normally advertised in local newspapers, the internet, job centres, with recruitment agencies and HSCNI recruit:
www.hscrecruit.com

How to find out more

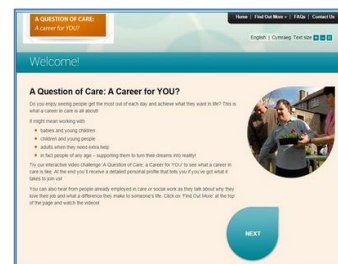
You can find out more from the NISCC website at: www.niscc.info/careers

Check out the **Meet the NISCC Ambassadors** to hear from people who work in social care.



Or test your suitability to work in care via **A Question of Care – A Career for You** a free interactive video challenge at:

www.aquestionofcare.org.uk



The AQCCY challenge tests if you have the right values and qualities to work in the social care sector. At the end of the challenge you'll receive a detailed personal profile that tells you if you have got what it takes to join us!