

CARE CAREERS SUFFOLK

Focus on Apprenticeships in Health and Social Care

MATTHEW TYLER – APPRENTICE IN LEARNING DISABILITIES >>

Matthew is an apprentice support worker at Leading Lives, which supports people with learning disabilities. During his apprenticeship, Matthew has worked in different services provided by Leading Lives, such as one of their community hubs, and supported living.

"I was studying IT at college but didn't find it very rewarding, and decided I really wanted to do a more practical role helping people rather than sitting in a classroom. Through volunteering at a learning disability service near to where I live, I knew that was what I wanted to do."

"During a careers fair at college I found out about the Care Careers Suffolk Care Academy and was offered a place. Through the Care Academy I was able to do pre apprenticeship training and then work with them to find a suitable placement that was right for me. I did my work placement at Leading Lives and really enjoyed it, and was really pleased to be offered an apprenticeship."

Would you recommend an apprenticeship to other people?

"Yes I would! I have found it to be a great way to interact with people, and it is a more practical, supported way of work, with 'real world' experiences. I hope that once I have finished my apprenticeship and gained some more practical experience I could progress to a more senior role."



<< MEGAN CARGILL – APPRENTICE IN ELDERLY RESIDENTIAL CARE

Megan also attended our Care Academy, and was then offered a placement with The Partnership in Care at their Prince of Wales House care home. Once she completed her work placement she was offered an apprenticeship as a trainee care worker.

"When I was at school, I did my work placement in a care home and knew straight away that's what I wanted to do. Being able to help people and make a difference was very rewarding, and I really enjoyed working with older people."

Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

"I wanted to learn alongside working. I felt that this would be more supportive and I would learn more about the sector I was working in."

"I would definitely recommend an apprenticeship because you have support around you and you don't feel like you have been thrown in the deep end. I really enjoy doing hands on care, and it's a great way to get a qualification, practical experience, and earn at the same time. Once I have finished my apprenticeship I want to continue working in care and eventually be a senior carer."



Apprenticeships offer a great way to get your foot on the ladder in the care sector, and can lead to a rewarding career with many opportunities for progression. For more information please contact our Apprenticeship Coordinator on info@carecareerssuffolk.co.uk or ring 07483 124628 or visit our website www.carecareerssuffolk.co.uk You can also find us on Twitter [@CareSuffolk](https://twitter.com/CareSuffolk) and Facebook [f Care Careers Suffolk](https://www.facebook.com/CareCareersSuffolk)

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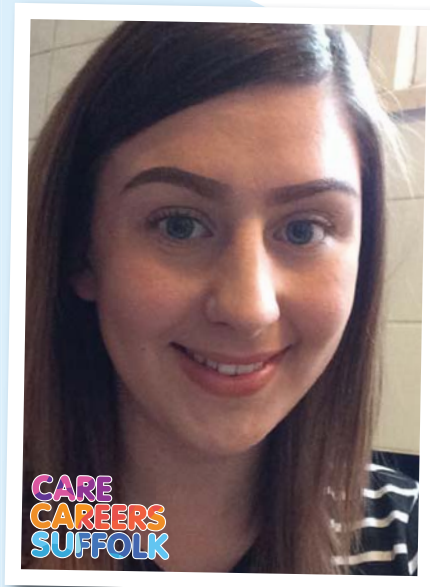
FRANCESCA DUNHAM – APPRENTICE IN HOMECARE >>

Francesca is undertaking an apprenticeship with ClarkeCare, who provide care and support to people in their own homes.

"I have always been interested in the care sector since studying health and social care at school. I wanted a job that was rewarding and I could build a future career in. I like helping people and enabling them to remain independent in their own homes. An apprenticeship means I can work and learn at the same time, whilst continually gaining care skills. I have ongoing support from other team members who have lots of knowledge and skills behind them. When I have finished my apprenticeship, I will have a nationally recognised qualification which will help me to progress through the sector."

What do you hope to do in the future in terms of career progression?

"Undertaking an apprenticeship is helping me to develop my knowledge, and I feel I can answer questions from clients with confidence. In the future, I would like to use this experience to progress through the care sector and maybe even look at going into nursing."



<< CORAL REYNOLDS – APPRENTICE IN ELDERLY DAY SERVICES

Coral found out about apprenticeships at one of the care information and recruitment events that we hold, and started her apprenticeship with AgeUK Suffolk as their first ever apprentice, training to be a day service assistant.

"I attended an open day event about care at my local library and thought it sounded like something I would really like to do. After the event, the apprenticeship coordinator met with me to go through the different types of care services that there are to find out what I might like to do. She suggested AgeUK Suffolk day service at Bury St Edmunds and arranged for me to go and meet the staff and clients to see what I thought. I really enjoyed it so the coordinator arranged for my DBS check to be done and then set up a work placement. Once I had completed my work placement, AgeUK Suffolk offered me an apprenticeship in health and social care."

What do you like about working in care?

"The clients and staff are so lovely and supportive and it is great to give something back. I really like it at AgeUK Suffolk, and I feel that I have found what I want to do and have been given a great opportunity. I had done some volunteering before and been to job interviews but it hadn't led anywhere. Doing an apprenticeship means I can learn, earn and gain experience, and I really feel I have found where I belong."



JESSICA TOWNLEY – APPRENTICE IN LEARNING DISABILITIES >>

Jessica started her apprenticeship with Orwell Housing Association in one of their learning disabilities supported living services.

"I wanted to work in the care sector and train to support people with learning disabilities but wasn't sure how I could do it. The Care Academy gave me an insight into that and helped me progress onto an apprenticeship. I wanted to learn this way because it is a more practical way of gaining a qualification, instead of just reading and writing about it. I have learned a range of skills and knowledge by training on the job which has also helped my confidence."

What do you do in your apprenticeship on a day to day basis?

"My job is very varied and I support people with everyday living so they can live their lives how they want to. I also assist them with activities in the community such as going to the cinema and shopping, and attending appointments. I find it very rewarding and I definitely want to carry on with this type of care work."

