

Raising the profile of Apprenticeships in Adult Social Care

Ruby works full-time for Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services (ADSS) as an **Apprentice Care Worker** in their Dementia Day Centre.

Ruby is due to complete her Care Worker level 2 Apprenticeship in November this year and chose to do this apprenticeship because *"As a child I suffered with childhood epilepsy and I found it embarrassing to talk about and hated others to know about it. I would forget things people had told me after my seizures and couldn't remember things when talking to people which would be embarrassing. I chose this apprenticeship because I feel I can reassure others about their memory loss as I have an understanding of what this feels like and what they may be going through. I want to help people and for them to feel happy when they are here with us in the Day Centre"*



I have grown a lot in confidence since I joined here. I have learnt that I can do things I never really believed I could and I enjoy getting up each day to see the people we support. I have gained so many new skills like manual handling and activity planning, which I had never experienced before.

Any benefits to the organisation? ADSS said *"We have committed to employing an Apprentice Care Worker each year so that we are providing opportunities for people to see social care as a career choice. We understand that within the demographics of our own organisation, the majority of our staff are female and over the age of 40 – we see the value of a diverse work force and feel that by offering Apprenticeship opportunities, we will continue to grow a diverse and skilled workforce"*.

Have there been any challenges supporting apprentices? The only challenge there has been, has been with the training provider we chose to support Ruby through her apprenticeship – we feel they haven't been as person centred as we could expect, so will ensure we choose a different provider next time

Any final thoughts from Ruby? *"I have really enjoyed getting to know the individuals that we support and I look forward to coming to work every day. I hope to continue growing in confidence and to have a career in Dementia healthcare"*.

Click [here](#) to find out more about how KCC can support you with apprenticeships and also provide levy funding if you don't pay levy, or if you do but your funds have all been allocated. To find out more about apprenticeships visit the Skills for Care pages [here](#) or email kentregisteredmanager@kent.gov.uk