



Doncaster
Enterprise for
Learning

Business Placement Case Study and Evaluation 64

Christine from The Hayfield School visited a social care provider on a business placement in June 2009.

Job Study - Assessment and Duty team member

What does your Job Role involve?

My job involves making initial assessments, passing on problems to other teams or to deal with the problem, close it and then pass it on. This is essentially to do with care assessment and child protection.

What key skills are required for your role?

Skills in literacy are important for writing reports and ICT for our constant use of databases. I apply my skills to work with others through teamwork and when I deal with other services and through contact with children and families. Problem solving skills are crucial to the ongoing work I do with families to try to alleviate difficulties.

What qualifications, training and/or experience did you need to enter your job?

I had gained a diploma in social work and other professional qualifications. A degree is now needed for this position.

What extra qualifications/training have you gained in your current role?

I have gained experience of other areas of social care from doing this job.

What are the working conditions of your job?

One week out of three I work with the duty team, on shifts that are sometimes 12 hours long. In the other two weeks, shifts may be 12 hours but this is flexible and although usually office based, I can also work from home. Visits to families can present health and safety issues where back up from colleagues is required.

What advice would you give to young people interested in entering this field?

I would suggest to anyone thinking of entering this field of work that they should get some placement experience before attempting the job. You can enter the profession after having studied A levels and a degree, but I don't think this is a good choice without some experience of the outside world.

Evaluation of the Business Placement

What did you do on the placement?

I work shadowed a social care team.

What knowledge about the organisation, its sector and its market place did you gain?

I learnt how the team deals with child protection issues.

Do you feel that the placement was a success? Please give reasons

I spent a day with the team and I thought it was successful, as it gave me an awareness of who to contact and advice with issues in my own workplace. If our problem relates to their brief we can contact this team, if it doesn't they will help direct us to the relevant support.

Could you suggest any improvements to the management of the business placement?

In terms of improvements to the management of the business placement, I would say none. It's a hands-on experience where staff respond to immediate situations and in this respect each placement visit may be very different.

Be whatever you want to be