

*“Essentially a caring person. With passion and enthusiasm to help people make the most of their lives”*

## Introduction

Apprentice specialising in the care and well-being of people living in Brunel Care's Deer-hurst Care and Nursing Home, Bristol. Learning to carry out, and assisting with, agreed procedures related to activities of daily living, e.g. personal care. Brunel Care's ethos is to help people make the most of their lives and we are widely recognised for our expertise and excellence in caring for people living with dementia and supporting their families. Our Day Centres specialise in providing stimulating environments for people living with a mild to moderate dementia.



Image: **Grace Kenway**, Care Assistant Apprentice – Brunel Care

### How did you get started in your career?

I've always wanted to do something that involved looking after people as that has always been a passion of mine. My teacher actually pointed out the advert for an apprentice care assistant and I applied on a whim and guess what? I got the job and haven't looked back

### Can you outline a typical work day?

A working day consists of lots of different aspects. We start the day by assisting people to get washed and dressed and then making sure that they have a substantial breakfast of their choice. We then set out activities for the residents which consist of; arts and craft, reminiscence Objects, singing, keep fit and many more. Then it's lunch time where we encourage the residents to sit together in the dining room for the social factor. Then in the afternoon residents are often visited by family and our activities coordinators entertain our residents. You need to be a smiley, friendly person to work here, who is happy to have a hug!

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

I just love interacting with the residents and getting to know about them and their histories. I adore everyone who lives there and have made many friends working at Deer-hurst. I love that I am making a difference.

### What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

No experience necessary to join us as a carer just a passion for helping people and the desire to pursue a career in Health and Social Care. We'll provide support with completing relevant qualification, Diploma in Health & Social Care (level 2 or 3).

### **What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?**

Essentially a caring person. With passion and enthusiasm to help people make the most of their lives.

### **Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?**

Just contact us for a chat about the work experience and job opportunities we can offer! If we have no actual roles to fill at the time, consider volunteering for us for a while. Keep an eye on the 'Working with us' pages on our website and follow our social media pages.

### **What career progression opportunities are available in your business?**

Many and varied! 5-6 day carer induction and then full training provided. We are committed to helping you thrive in the role. Support from us with completing relevant qualification, Diploma in Health & Social Care (level 2 or 3). Employees are encouraged to apply for vacancies that arise within Brunel Care, making the most of individuals' skills, aptitudes, development and ambitions.

### **Why is it important for the construction sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?**

The care sector is a growth industry, and providers and companies operating within the sector face stiff competition attracting new talent – young or old. The industry is known to struggle slightly to attract younger applicants.

### **What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants.**

There are currently three million people in the UK aged over 80 years old and this population is projected to almost double by 2030. This means that the care and housing industry will continue to develop as a growth industry to support our ageing population and their care and housing needs.

### **General words of wisdom**

An apprenticeship is an excellent way to gain experience, qualifications and a great start to your career!

### **Further contact/information**

Email: [beryl.cains@brunelcare.org.uk](mailto:beryl.cains@brunelcare.org.uk) | [www.brunelcare.org.uk](http://www.brunelcare.org.uk)