Think you can help make a difference to people’s lives? Personal and practical support is what social care is about
So what is social care?

It’s about supporting people to maintain their independence, dignity and control.

It’s big business. In fact, in 2009 there were around 1.75 million paid jobs in adult social care in England, employing 1.6 million people.

It’s getting bigger. Adult social care continues to grow and it’s estimated that by 2025 social care may need up to 2.6 million workers to fill over 3 million paid jobs.

It’s changing too. It has to in order to respond to what those who use the services want, and give them greater choice and control.
Interested?

Somewhere in your community there’s a job that you can do to help others. If you like working with people, social care work offers a worthwhile job that can turn into a rewarding, long-term career. Here are just some of the many roles available in social care:

**Occupational therapist**

They assess and treat physical and psychiatric conditions using activities designed to prevent disability and promote independence.

**Community support and outreach workers**

These workers help people overcome difficulties, helping them cope with everyday living, develop socially and personally and live as independently as possible.

**Care workers**

They are front line staff in all care settings. Working with all types of service users receiving direct care, they assist with service users’ overall care, comfort and well-being.

**Technicians**

Technicians can help service users by supplying and maintaining equipment they may require to support their needs.

**First line managers**

They manage the day-to-day provision of social care services. They also maintain standards of practice and support staff with care planning, needs assessment and staff training.

**Senior management**

These can include chief executives and directors who lead, direct and coordinate the organisation at a strategic level.
Definitely. In a recent survey of those working in social care, 88% of people said they were happy in their jobs. 99% agreed that they like feeling they help people and 96% felt that their work really makes a difference.

Sounds good? Gaining a real sense of personal achievement from knowing that your job is helping people and creating a caring society is a great feeling. Making a positive difference to people’s lives by contributing to their health, happiness and well-being… not many jobs give you that.
Got what it takes to work in social care?

Not sure? Try the Career Pathways e-tool. It’s an interactive online tool that helps you to find out what job roles there are in social care. It also shows you the range of skills and qualifications you need – find it at www.skillsforcare.org.uk/careerpathways.

Or, have a go at the following questionnaire:

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<td>1</td>
<td>Do you want a job that makes a positive difference to other people’s lives?</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Are you reliable?</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Can you handle working under pressure?</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Can you work to deadlines?</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Can you handle instructions, procedures or policies?</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Are you happy to chat and put people at ease?</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>How are your writing skills? Can you use a diary or fill in forms and reports?</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Do you think you are a good listener?</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Can you understand other people’s feelings?</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Do you respect other people’s values and beliefs?</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Privacy and dignity – do you think they’re everyone’s right?</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Are you up for training to develop your own work skills?</td>
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More yeses than nos? Why not look into a job in social care. Talk to Jobcentre Plus, a careers advisor or your local college. They’ll tell you about vacancies and any pre-employment training that might be available near you.
We’ll start by supporting you

The types of support available to you will depend on your own particular circumstances. It might include:

Employability support
Practical support or training. This will help you develop the skills and attitudes that everyone needs to find, keep and move on in work.

Pre-employment training
This is a short course designed to give you a really good idea of what it would be like to work in adult social care. It also helps you to develop the skills you need to get started. All pre-employment training for adult social care should lead to a qualification.

Job search and vacancy lists
Access to online vacancy lists and practical help with finding and applying for jobs.

Apprenticeships
These offer a comprehensive learning and development package to anyone 16 or over who is starting or has already begun a career in social care.

For more information visit: www.skillsforcare.org.uk/apprenticeships

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