

Joined Up Careers Derbyshire

Journey into health and social care story ***Gabi – Team Administrator***

What was your first job?

Babysitter was the very first I think, but throughout my younger years I often worked - very briefly - as a shop assistant, florist, cloakroom attendant, did telephone surveys and sales, even worked as a waitress which is tough when maths is not your strong point!

How did you get to your current role?

I was working for 10 years in the relief pool as an admin assistant at Derbyshire County Council and accepted a placement in the Joined Up Careers Team. I worked there for a few months and then applied for the job. The rest is history.

Did you move across different career paths?

It all started off in Germany where I qualified as a nursery nurse. I loved working with the children, but felt that the job itself wasn't quite right for me, so I 'reached for the stars' and went back to education. I studied my A Levels as an adult and then enrolled as a student for a bachelor degree in English and German at Bielefeld University. At that point everything was pointing towards becoming a teacher.

During my studies I organised a year abroad as an au-pair to improve my spoken English and combined this with the obligatory internship at a secondary school. I met my present partner during my time in the UK, finished my studies, and then returned to England and lived in London working as a supply assistant teacher via various agencies in various school and nursery settings. After a year we moved back to Derbyshire where I worked again in different school settings as agency staff. Since there was not much work during the school holidays I applied for the role as an admin assistant in the relief pool at County Hall. I liked the job so much that I never went back to my old role.

Did you face any challenges to get to where you are now?

Many! But I am actually glad that I was met with so many walls in my career as they definitely shaped the path towards my present job.

What do you do now?

I am the Team Administrator for Joined up Careers Derbyshire and the editor for a local parish paper on the side.

What is it about your job that inspires you?

I have fantastic colleagues who really make a difference in people's lives with their work. I am so very pleased that I can contribute to this, and gladly organise and prepare things for them. This includes being creative and creating posters, leaflets, badges and coasters for them! My job is full of multi-tasking which is equally exciting and challenging, but in a good way. The most inspirational aspect of my job is that we are helping people to help others, like a spark that ignites a candle.

What is positive to you about working for Derbyshire Healthcare FT?

I feel like I get all the help and support I need, with options to develop in many ways and very importantly, flexible working times. I also now have my very own business laptop for working from home!