

My work is social care in a residential home

Marion Davies

Age: 60

Lives on a farm in west Carmarthenshire

Hours per week: Flexible relief, approx. 25 per week

Place of work: "Cartref", Henllan, Llandysul, Ceredigion



I work with elderly people in a privately-owned residential home in this small rural village five miles from my home. I travel to work over the river Teifi to Ceredigion.

I have done this work since May 1999. I was offered a 24 hr-a-week contract. Unfortunately I became ill, but after being at home recuperating for over a year, I decided to return. I can now work flexibly, but I like to be at home on Sundays.

My connection with the farming community? Farming has been my life. I was born on a farm and married a farmer. I always milked the cows - 50 Friesians - while William, my husband, went out to work lorry-driving. He and I have changed places. Since retirement from milking seven years ago and renting out part of our land, he cares for the farm with our four-year-old grandson who is quite the little farmer!

How I started doing this work? I couldn't realise my ambition to be a nurse when I was young as I was needed at home on the farm. With retirement came opportunity ... my chapel minister suggested it. I had experience, I cared for my mother-in-law with Alzheimer's disease for the last eight of 34 years

I had lived with her. I regularly help my own mother aged 89 to remain independent in her home.

My qualifications? Experience is the best qualification. I can turn my hand to anything, washing, cleaning, cooking and personal care. I was NVQ offered study and have regular practical training in essentials such as food hygiene and manual handling.

What do I like about this work? It's the personal care of the residents, 20 women and three men. They're mostly local people, and I belong to the same community and world as they do. I chat to them about farming and the people we know or are related to! They are close to me and trust me. Speaking Welsh helps.

Are there any negative aspects? There aren't many, to be honest. I like old people. Here I share responsibility with others. It's great to see people smiling, no-one po-faced - which lightens everything. Now and again we may lose someone of course, and we all miss them terribly. But we have a lady here now who is already 105. Isn't that a great recommendation?



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