

## My work is social care for people with visual or hearing impairments and carers

# Gill Bromley

**Age:** 49

**Lives on a farm in South Ceredigion**

**Place of work:** all of Ceredigion

**Hours of work:** 25 hours per week

**Employer:** Disability Team & Supporting People, Ceredigion Social Services



**I work as a flexible carer with four different people** over 65 years old, three women and one man, who live at home with their carers. The four people are either deaf, partly deaf, or deafblind. I work flexibly during the week, but I don't offer weekends.

**I have done this work for four years now.** I travel throughout Ceredigion for which I am paid a mileage allowance in addition to my salary. Through my working, we are able to stay in farming in west Wales.

**We have bred a herd of pedigree cattle on the farm.** After we finished keeping sheep, I had some spare time.

**I started doing this work by first becoming a volunteer.** This gave me experience and an idea of whether I liked the work or not, as it was a little bit daunting to begin with. I have been amazed at the determination of those I care for, they're brilliant!

**Qualifications I have gained in my work?** I went straight into studying for NVQ 3 in health and social care. I also have Stage One in British Sign Language for the Deaf which I succeeded in achieving by

following a day-class in my local town to gain more understanding. For those who can see, there are many shortcuts in sign language, but when someone is deaf and blind, touch is important and finger-spelling on the hands is crucial.

**What I like about this work is doing the small tasks** with people that can make a big difference to their lives, some cooking maybe, or shopping. It makes them feel especially cared for. They end up with something they can be proud of, e.g. sharing a cake with a friend who calls to see them, or even giving it away as a raffle prize! I give the women a manicure occasionally; a little pampering can add to a person's self-esteem. As for their carers, it gives them a break too, someone to share their responsibility with and tell their worries to.

**This work is very, very rewarding.** My satisfaction comes when I see someone completing a task, being able to take pride in it - with help and patience. It gives me pleasure when I see their pleasure in doing something for themselves that otherwise they maybe wouldn't attempt. I look forward and can't wait to see them each week.



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