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and interesting ”



## Donna Candland

### Personal Assistant


Donna Candland, 42, works as a personal assistant for a gentleman who purchases his own care. She has worked in social care for the past fifteen years following a career in upholstery.

When Donna started a family she wanted a career that would fit around her child care needs. Seeing that social care provided flexible working hours, she applied for social care jobs advertised in the local paper. Once she found out more about the sector Donna realised what a difference this work makes to other people's lives.


Donna has been in her present role for four years and works as part of a team of PAs. On a daily basis she gives her client medication, helps him with personal care and getting dressed and assists him live within the community. Part of her role also involves organising staff rotas for the team, making sure they all fill in time sheets and putting their hours through pay role.

The most satisfying aspect of Donna's role is: "knowing that with my help I am enabling another person to lead a fuller and as normal life as possible."

Working as a PA on a one to one basis enables Donna to get to know her employer on a personal level. She says:




for me you actually realise that putting someone else's needs first is very satisfying and makes you feel good about yourself, putting a smile on your face and making you feel like getting out of bed every day and going to work.




The key challenges are that no two days are the same with her client's condition and you have to make yourself aware of your surroundings to deal with any changes.

Donna would recommend a career in social care to others:



it can be very rewarding and interesting as I feel there is something different happening every day and there are now opportunities to gain recognised qualifications.



For the future, Donna would like to gain further qualifications in health and social care and hopefully run her own care home.

**For more information about working in social care visit**  
[www.skillsforcare.org.uk/careerpathways](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/careerpathways)