

**EMPLOYEE**

Kelly Platt

AGE

23

POSITION

Full-time Carer

Kelly is soon to complete an English degree at Bedford University and initially aimed to become an English teacher.

As with most young people, deciding upon a final career path is not easy and Kelly became unsure of her choice during her degree. Friends suggested she look at caring as they recognised her empathetic and thoughtful nature. Kelly looked into the sector closely and decided to follow this route. Although her parents had initial concerns, they are now delighted with her new career choice and fully support her. She joined Beaumont Healthcare eight months ago with the aim of completing her degree and then moving to caring in a full time position with the aim of working towards developing her career further.

She completed her NVQ Level II in care at school and has already identified that she needs to complete her NVQ Level III, which she will start upon her graduation from university. She has researched and investigated her career path by defining the next steps and achievements she needs to make to move towards her goal of moving into management.

Since starting with Beaumont Healthcare she is already taken the first steps on this path and has taken their induction course and several of the specialist courses they offer. She has also signed up as a volunteer 'dementia friends' champion.

Kelly says: "There are so many options and roads you can take with a career in caring - many of which I did not

realise existing until I starting researching. In the future I want to complete my qualifications to NVQ level V and look at becoming a co-ordinator and then a manager. I am also interested in exploring owning my own care home, but that is very much in the future."

Her day varies, which she loves, but typically she starts her rounds around 7.00am with a cup of tea for her clients, followed by either return visits to help them wash and get up, prepare and eat lunch, tidy and wash up. She finishes around 2.00pm. Alternatively she works from 4.00pm to 10.00pm and helps clients with their tea or supper and getting into bed at the end of the day. She also works alternate weekends which suits her social life and allows her to keep up with friends. She says she averages twenty to twenty five calls per day to her regular base of clients - many of whom have two or more visits per day. Her clients are a mix of elderly and disabled service users and she also attends some as a 'double-up' call with a colleague. A 'double-up' call is often required by clients who need help moving or using a hoist. Kelly enjoys this as it allows her to talk things through with colleagues and get to know them.

Kelly rounds up by saying: "I love the fact that I have built an affinity with many of my clients and this allows me to empathise with their needs and where I can, I can help solve some of their daily living issues."