

Health and social care sector

Christine Smedley Has applied to study social work

Christine hopes to be a Children's Advocate or Educational Welfare Officer.

What are you hoping to study?

Social work at the University of Sheffield.

What were you doing before this?

Northern College Access to Higher Education Diploma.

Why have you chosen to apply for this course?

I saw social workers in action and I thought that I would have a lot to give. At 49 years old, I think that I have a lot of life experience and feel that I could put this to good use in the field of social work. I am also conscious that employment prospects are good in this field.



What made you decide to apply for a higher education course?

It is a chance for me to explore a potential that I have, that I didn't explore in my youth. I also have the care of two young children, who I am going to need to support for the next fifteen years. I, therefore, need to be the main 'breadwinner'.

Have you got any concerns about starting a higher education course?

I worry about if I will be able to afford it. However, since I have started to explore the student financial support arrangements, it now looks more manageable.

What will you use your qualification for?

Eventually I would like to be either a Children's Advocate or an Educational Welfare Officer. I would then like to progress onto management.

What advice would you give to others considering higher education?

To go for it wholeheartedly. With the guidance you are given at Northern College you receive the tools that you need to enable you to move on.

"It is a chance for me to explore a potential that I didn't explore in my youth."