

## Health and social care sector

### Sally Mellor

Is in the first year of a BA Honours Social Work Studies Degree

Sally wants to be a Social Worker and a role model for her daughters.

#### What are you studying?

BA Honours Social Work Studies (first year) at Sheffield Hallam University.

#### What were you doing before this?

Working in a sewing factory and as a Sales Assistant at the local Co-op. I do voluntary work at the local Home-start, supporting families with children under 5, and at the local youth centre in Penistone. I did the Access Diploma in Social Sciences at Northern College with a Sheffield Hallam University Higher Education Certificate.

#### What do you think of your course?

I have settled down now but the first semester was tough. I am enjoying the course and meeting new people and making new friends.



#### When did you first consider higher education?

I did the Community Development course at the local community centre in 2005—I became “addicted” to learning and did various short courses at Northern College. Then a friend talked me into doing the Diploma. I loved the course and felt I could study for the rest of my life. I looked at different courses and felt qualifying as a Social Worker was the best route for me. I also wanted to be a role model for my daughters. My youngest now wants to be a Social Worker, the middle one a Doctor and the eldest is working as a Teaching Assistant.

#### What were your concerns about starting a higher education course?

Paying the fees and debt! I was concerned about fitting in my academic work around two jobs and voluntary work—and commuting from Penistone. I often do assignments in the early hours. It can be tiring, but I manage.

#### What will you use your qualification for?

To be a Social Worker. I am not yet sure which area of social work, although I am interested in children and families.

#### What advice would you give to others considering higher education?

Don't think twice—just go for it! Don't ever think “What if?” or you could miss out on a fantastic, life-changing opportunity.

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