

## The Story of a New Starter

- ◆ You have worked for DL for 6 months now, what is your role with us and how have you found your time with us so far?

I am a Family Assessment Worker. From starting this position from July 2019, I cannot explain how much it has benefited me, I have developed a lot of skills and qualities—mainly my confidence, as well as gaining and obtaining so much knowledge regarding safeguarding children and families. Although the job is very challenging and emotional, I am enjoying every moment of my time at Bonner House. I enjoy that every day is different, and how practical the role is. I am always on my feet and I am working directly with families, gaining knowledge regarding their experiences and supporting them throughout the process. A key aspect about my job that I value is how rewarding it is whilst working in partnership with staff/managers, children and families. We aim to provide the best outcomes and be able to encourage our families to lead positive happy lives and most importantly to be able to thrive.

- ◆ How would you explain the training & induction process you received?

Straight forward and beneficial. I learnt so much from reading different documents and shadowing family workers as this gave me a first-hand experience of what the job entails. Also, I was able to understand, grasp and adapt the policies and procedures of Dudley lodge quickly. This allowed me to settle within the work environment quite easily and fit in within the team. Training is ongoing, the initial training involved online activities as well as practical sessions. This is allowed me to get a refresher of significant aspects I need to consider when working with families, I learnt new skills and different approaches such as solution-focused therapy which I have now implemented and use within my everyday work with families.

- ◆ What is your thoughts/ambitions for your future here at Dudley Lodge?

My thoughts and ambitions are based around my self-development and learning as much as I can at Dudley Lodge. I hope to continue to learn as much as I can which will enable me to in future contest for a more senior role within Dudley lodge.

- ◆ What advice would you give to someone interested in applying for a position with Dudley Lodge?

Never give up! Be confident, have a positive outlook/approach and remain open-minded. You will come across challenges and difficult situations, have a clear aim and put all your effort into supporting the children and families. Remember they have gone through difficult and traumatic phases in their lives. The role entails working under pressure however at Dudley lodge you are supported and guided with a great team who are always there for you. This makes the job a lot easier and increases morale.