

Learner Case Study

Health, Social Care and Early Years

Martha's Story

Martha moved from Zimbabwe to the UK in 2003. She and her three children settled in Leeds and Martha quickly became a valued and respected member of her community. Her first job was with the Jewish Care Services in Leeds where she supported young people with learning disabilities and older people with a diversity of mental health needs. As a qualified teacher in her home country, Martha decided that she wanted to train for a similar role in the UK. Her responsibilities at the Jewish Care Services made her aware of the potential of individuals, regardless of ability. This inspired her to combine work with study on a Foundation Degree in Social Care at Leeds College of Technology. After graduating, she would like to teach Health & Social Care with a particular focus on learning disabilities.

Despite extensive commitment to her role as Support Worker at Real Life Options in Leeds and caring for her own family, Martha consistently produces thoroughly researched, highly perceptive and well presented written work which demonstrates a real engagement with practical and academic aspects of her degree course. The staff in this area are greatly appreciative of her initiative, energy and determination to raise the expectations and esteem of their learners.

In June 2008 Martha received a Highly Commended status in the West Yorkshire Adult Work-Based Learner Awards.