

Learner Case Study

Health, Social Care and Early Years

Miriam's Story

In 2004 at 15, Miriam fled the political unrest of her home in Kenya with six other young people. Her mother had died several years before and she was not in contact with her father. On arriving in England, Miriam lived first in a Care Home in Drighlington and soon moved to Leeds. Unsurprisingly, her last years at school were somewhat turbulent and she left without any qualifications. Thanks to the efforts of her Social and Support Workers at St Anne's Hostel in Leeds and her own determination, Miriam gained her GCSEs and NVQs in Care at Park Lane College. These experiences were to inspire Miriam towards a career in the care professions herself.

Having been entirely self-supporting since the age of 16, Miriam has worked in a variety of care roles and she is currently employed at a residential care home in Harrogate. Her duties involve personal care, organising activities and outings as well as ensuring that her clients have the best quality of life possible.

Early in her working life, Miriam decided she would like to become more qualified so that she could have more impact in the professional care environment and in 2007, she began the Foundation Degree in Social Care.

Miriam has been a real asset to the Foundation Degree programme and is unfailingly optimistic regardless of any personal hardship. Miriam values the opportunity to put the theories she is learning in class into practice at work and her ultimate ambition is to work in Child Protection. As she says, 'my Social Worker inspired me and I want the opportunity to help other young people to believe in themselves and live happy and fulfilling lives.'

In June 2009 Miriam won a Learner Award at the West Yorkshire Adult Work-Based Learning Awards.