

Future Carers: A Story of Success



Blessed Kanodereka: Support Worker
Sun Health Care, (Since March 2012)



Background

Blessed came to England from Zimbabwe in 2000 to join her family, moving to Barnsley three years later. Initially, she found work as a cleaner and then as a warehouse operative before learning about Future Carers while visiting a job centre.

“Although I had no formal care experience, I cared for my sister, who has learning disabilities, as well as my own children, and I began to think about social care as I felt I had a lot to offer,” she says.

Future Carers

Blessed joined Future Carers in 2010. She completed the Level 1 progression certificate and a first aid qualification before going on to achieve a Level 2 Health and Society Diploma.

“Through Future Carers I gained the knowledge that made me feel ready to begin my career safely,” she says. “I understood the importance of promoting independence, choice and protecting the rights and safety of people I work with.” In 2012 Blessed successfully applied for a position with Sun Healthcare, a social care organisation in Barnsley.

Career Progression

“From day one my senior was very supportive,” she says. “I completed my induction and a period of shadowing. Building relationships with clients is very important – it is important to establish trust, and good support from my employer helped me to do that.”

She continues: “I have so many experiences of supporting the independence of the people I work with. This can include cooking, personal hygiene, shopping, going out in the community. I have even had the opportunity to support my client to go on holiday in Skegness. That was tiring but worthwhile.”

Learning and development is continuous and Blessed has completed training in the administration of medication including insulin administration.

“It’s good to be part of making a real difference,” she adds. “I am so





much more confident. I love my job and my workplace feels like my second home. I work with a brilliant team. It's also good for my family to see me study – we sit and work together.

“I am doing a Level 3 qualification at the moment. I want to continue to develop and advance in the social care sector and am thinking about the role of senior support worker on completion of the Level 3 diploma.”

Manager Feedback

Sun Healthcare senior support worker Jane Batty says: “Blessed is a valued member of our team and she has grown in knowledge and confidence, successfully completing training and development activity to maintain our high standards. She is very well liked and respected by the people she works alongside, and she works hard to ensure the people we support are given every opportunity to live the life they want.

“Blessed is naturally a calming influence who is a good listener. She has, and still does, spend time getting to know the people we support, meeting their changing needs and building good relationships built on trust and respect.”

