



Ashleigh Cook

Business Manager, Supported Living Service

I am Ashleigh Cook; my current role is Business Manager overseeing the Learning Disability Division and Overnight Team. When I'm not at work I'm being mam to my 7-year-old son, the apple of my eye. As well as my fur baby my 5-year-old cockapoo.

I enjoy holidays in the sun, especially the crazy trips with the girls. I like to spend quality time with my close-knit family and I'm the youngest sister of four girls. I have a close circle of friends who I can rely on and spending time with them is really important to me.

I've worked for the company for 23 years. I started as a trainee residential officer and have worked my way up gaining experience in many areas of the company.

I am passionate about improving the quality of life of our customers. I have a positive approach to life and am passionate about sharing this with both customers and the teams supporting them.

I put my passion into practice in returning to university at 40, to qualify as a practitioner in Positive Behavioural Support, and graduated with a distinction. It was a proud time for me and highlighted that my hard work and determination regarding how our customers are supported is impactful, worthwhile and as a result can support a successful career too.

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David Dalkin

Business Manager, Community Equipment Service

My name is David Dalkin, I am a Business Manager in Sunderland Care and Support, responsible for the Community Equipment Service. I have worked in Social Care for over 40 years, the last 25 of those being in Sunderland. Even though I no longer have day to day contact with customers, I still derive a sense of satisfaction from knowing that what we do as a service and as a company makes a difference to people's lives.

I started work as an Administrator in Durham County Council and then worked in various roles, leaving there in 1999, as an Area Home Care Manager. I then moved to Sunderland City Council as one of two Home Care Team Managers, tasked with modernising and improving the Home Care Service within the city.

My main interests outside of work are playing golf (badly!) and watching any motor sport I can, but especially Formula 1.

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Christopher Duckling-Breed

Head of Operations (ILS)

I have worked in Social Care for 24 years, when I started as a casual mobile warden for Hartlepool Borough Council. Before this I grew up in a sheltered scheme, where my mum was the resident warden.

As a bit of a geek, I have always been keen on exploring how technology can help people thrive for longer. As well as being the Head of Operations (ILS), I am a dad to two kids, Scarlett and Jayden and a Foster Carer for the local authority.

We also have two dogs, a hamster, tropical fish, quail and a local seagull that has adopted us, so life is never boring!

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Derek Dance

Head of Operations, Direct Care Services

With 23 years of dedicated service under my belt, my journey with the company has seen me embrace multiple roles, each enriching my experience and understanding the value of our offer to the residents of Sunderland.

Outside of work, my world revolves around my 18-year-old daughter, who is the joy of my life. I have a love for sunny holidays, with Florida being my absolute favourite place - there's just something magical about Universal Studios and Disney World.

When I'm not planning my next escape to the sunshine, you'll find me hitting the pavement; I'm an avid runner, committing to training six days a week, although ordinarily very slowly.

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Faye Gregory-Smith

Head of Quality Assurance

I started working for what is now SCAS in 2002 when I was 24. I was incredibly lucky to have been offered the role of Senior Day Centre Officer having worked in a care home mid-week and weekends in a small day centre in Shiremoor. Having only just learned to drive I'd never been to Sunderland before the day of my interview, and I've now worked here for 22 years – next year that will be half my life! I've worked in a lot of different settings including day services, short breaks, supported living, Shared Lives, training and quality.

I'm originally from Hampshire but moved to Newcastle when I was 18 to study Psychology at the University of Northumbria. I now live in Whickham with my husband Matt, kids Alex and Grace and dog Mabel. We have a caravan at Bamburgh so spend most of our spare time there enjoying the fresh air (and the club house).

Working in Quality Assurance I'm always looking for fresh ideas and really welcome any suggestions people have. If you'd like to talk to me about anything, feel free to catch me any time.

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David Kelly

Senior Accountant

Born and bred in Jarrow, I have worked in Sunderland for the past 20 years firstly for Sunderland City Council, then moving to Sunderland Care and Support in 2013.

My current role is Senior Accountant within the Finance team. My main function is to provide advice and financial support to the senior managers within the company. In addition, I work closely on the production of the monthly budget monitoring statements, as well as supporting the budget setting process on an annual basis and the closure of the accounts at the end of the financial year.

I have a particular remit on the production of the unit costs for all of our services. This requires a detailed understanding of the staffing requirements across the whole company. I also support and line manager some of the other members of the finance team.

I spend my spare time with my two sons, watching my youngest son play football on a weekend and catching 5-10 minutes with my eldest son when he allows me to! My youngest son and I are both season ticket holders for Sunderland and regularly attend home games, as well as the odd away game too. I try to keep myself relatively fit and run 2-3 times a week (injuries permitting) and I also enjoy going to gigs and watching live bands.

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