



Julie Coxon

Business Manager, Supported Living Service

My career has spanned over 37 years, (unbelievable)! I commenced employment for Sunderland City Council as a Casual Relief in 1987, working in Older Person's Services. I carried out a range of duties including Care Assistant, Domestic Assistant, Kitchen Maid and Cook and thoroughly enjoyed this period of my career.

I then had an opportunity to work in a Mental Health Rehabilitation Hostel, supporting customers who had spent many years in Cherry Knowle Hospital, now known as Hopewood Park. I was fortunate to be involved in the resettling of patients from Cherry Knowle Hospital into services within the Community. This was a pivotal time in my career, and I learned that supporting individuals who experienced mental health problems was my vocation.

I have since progressed in Senior Management, working in various roles to eventually become Business Manager/Registered Manager, managing the Mental Health Division.

My main interest outside of work is being 'Nana' to my five grandchildren which I love - so different to being a mum to four. I also love to travel, and my favourite destination is Thailand.

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Ken Wrightson

Business Manager, Home Improvement Agency

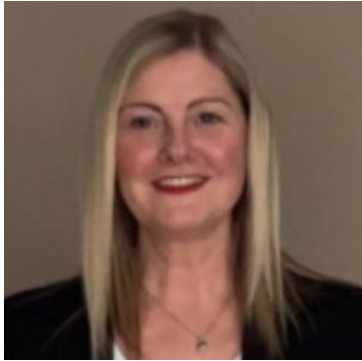
I started my employment with Sunderland City Council 34 years ago as a Building Surveyor in the grants department. This position gave me a great deal of experience in repairing and renovating properties and adapting homes to meet the needs of disabled customers.

I am privileged to be a Business Manager responsible for the Home Improvement Agency. This position has allowed me to work with a passionate team to deliver and shape services to meet the needs of our customers.

Outside of work I enjoy doing DIY projects and keeping fit through cycling, going to the gym and open water swimming. I also enjoy traveling abroad for relaxing holidays as well as group cycling holidays with friends.

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Louisa Thompson

Business Manager, Recovery At Home

I started working in the Public Sector almost 30 years ago as a Secretary in the Public Works Department. In 1995 I commenced my employment with Sunderland City Council in various departments as a Business Admin Assistant.

I worked as a Home Care Supervisor, managing a large team of Home Care Assistants; a part of my career that I enjoyed because I have always put customers at the heart of everything I do.

Within Sunderland Care and Support I have worked in various Provider services. One of my most successful projects was the creation of the Reablement at Home Service in partnership with the Occupational Therapy Service.

More recently, I have worked closely with NHS colleagues in the creation of the Recovery at Home Service and continue to manage the ever-evolving Single Point of Contact.

Outside of work I spend most of my time with my husband Lee, two children Harry and Emily, and our dog Charlie. I enjoy keeping fit and to relax and unwind I practice yoga and meditation. I also have a huge passion for interior design.

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Allison Watson

Business Manager, Technology Enabled Care

I started working in Sunderland Care and Support 40 years ago as a kitchen maid in older persons services and have held a variety of roles within the company.

I have always been passionate about providing an excellent service for people who require a level of support, and this led to my career progression. I have recently been appointed as a Business Manager for technology enabled care (TEC).

Outside of work I spend time with my husband Tommy, I have three adult children and two grandchildren; oh, and not forgetting my border collie pup Prince. I enjoy my touring caravan and have recently taken the plunge to book a cruise. I haven't been on a plane for 40 years and this may be the start of new adventures for me. It's good to try new things.

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Dawn Brown **Business Manager,** **Community Based and** **Carer Support Services**

I have 25 years' experience of working in the health and social care sector. My first five years were based with the NHS and the last 20 years have been with Sunderland Council and Sunderland Care and Support. When I commenced my career with the council my first role was Senior Residential Officer in the mental health division, prior to working across a variety of services.

SCAS has provided me with opportunities to continue my learning journey and in 2022, I achieved my Post Graduate Certificate in Positive Behavioural Support. This gave me the opportunity to collaborate with our partners in Together for Children for a year, as PBS Practitioner, embedding the principles of PBS. I returned to SCAS in November 2023 as the organisations PBS Practitioner.

Outside of work I enjoy travelling, there is nothing better than lying in the sun reading a good book. I also enjoy spending time in my garden although can't claim to have green fingers. I spend a lot of my free time walking, and I have recently started Yoga in a bid to get fit.

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Gareth Ord **Business Manager,** **Supported Living** **Service**

I have been working at Sunderland Care and Support since the age of 27 where I began life as a Support Worker. Prior to this I was between working in dead-end jobs and travelling the country as guitarist of a band before deciding it was time to grow up and get a real job!

Over the past 11 years I have worked in services throughout the company as Support Worker, Team Leader, Service Manager, Registered Manager and recently have gained the Business Manager position. Working in different locations has allowed me to grow and provided me with the skills to further my own development and help make a genuine difference to people's lives.

Outside of work I am Dad to Romy, my 8-year-old daughter who I tend to ship around to swimming, drama, football, etc. I love to keep fit and would run 40-50 miles per week until recently but can now be found in the gym 6 days a week. Every Monday I volunteer as a facilitator at my local 'Andy's Man Club' which is a charity that helps men with mental health issues or life challenges

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