



Case studies



Abbie Wood, 20, is a support worker with one of Cornerstone’s community support teams based in Airdrie. She started her Modern Apprenticeship in August 2020 and says:

“Doing the Modern Apprenticeship has helped me in many ways. It’s helped me regain skills that I forgot I had, and it’s boosted my confidence massively. I feel confident and am constantly developing new skills. Also, the help and support from my assessor has helped me believe in myself again!

“The most rewarding thing about doing my Modern Apprenticeship is getting to speak about the amazing people I support, and how I have been able to help them throughout my time working with them. It has also given me better knowledge and skills to ensure I am delivering the best practice and care. I’m actually surprised by how much I enjoy doing my Modern Apprenticeship; I don’t feel like it’s a burden and I love the range of subjects there are to discuss in your assessments and I enjoyed doing lots of research and learning new things about health and social care”.

“I would 100% recommend doing a Modern Apprenticeship to anyone. I would say to them to give it their all, learn as much as you can, and just simply enjoy it. It’s the best thing I have done so far!”



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Elizabeth Hepburn is a Team Leader who has worked within a number of Cornerstone services in West Dunbartonshire. She completed a Modern Apprenticeship in 2020.

“I first joined Cornerstone as a Support Worker because I was looking for a new career that I could progress in. I decided to sign up to their Modern Apprenticeship to further my knowledge and allow me to take on more responsibilities and gain the qualification that was required to work up to Team Leader. It has really given me confidence in my ability to support my team and to give them practical advice and guidance. I was surprised at how quickly I was able to work through the units; they often cross referenced which was interesting. I really enjoyed typing up the units and working my way through these with the support from my assessor”.

“I would advise anyone to go for a Modern Apprenticeship where it is offered, because it is a qualification worth having which will support you in your role, and help you to progress your career in care. Also it's not as scary as you first think! The support and guidance is there when you need it, and although the work may seem daunting, you already know much more than you think as it builds upon the experience you gain every day working in your role. Definitely go for it, you won't look back!”



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Tonia DiPonio, 25, is a team member at Cornerstone's Keswick service, based in Dundee. She started her Modern Apprenticeship in 2020 and graduated in February 2021.

"I was motivated to sign up to do a Modern Apprenticeship because I wanted to progress in my career by developing my knowledge and skills. It has really helped to grow my confidence and reassured me that I was carrying out my role as effectively as possible!

"I found the different tasks and units really interesting, especially the practical side of it where I was observed doing different tasks such as moving and handling, and administering medication. The most rewarding part of the Modern Apprenticeship was achieving the qualification in SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 7. I would highly recommend that people should start a Modern Apprenticeship if they want to progress in their career in health and social care!"



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"I FELT MOTIVATED TO DO A MODERN APPRENTICESHIP BECAUSE I WANTED TO HAVE MORE OF AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE JOB I WAS DOING, AND THE POLICIES THAT ARE IMPORTANT FOR THIS ROLE."

HOLLY BELL

Holly Bell, 21, completed her Modern Apprenticeship with Cornerstone in Glasgow before moving to become a Team Member at Cornerstone's Riddell Street service in West Dunbartonshire.

"I felt motivated to do a Modern Apprenticeship because I wanted to have more of an understanding about the job I was doing, and the policies that are important for this role. It really helped to make the procedures and legislation a lot clearer, which gave me a better understanding of my responsibilities. I was surprised at how much support I was given during the apprenticeship by my assessor, who was always there to give me guidance when I felt unsure. Your assessor is very understanding and non-judgemental, and supports you if you need a break! They will also check in on you to make sure everything is okay.

"I also really enjoyed meeting up with other people who were also doing their Modern Apprenticeship, and learning from them too. If someone was to ask me about doing a Modern Apprenticeship, I would tell them to go for it! It is so rewarding in so many ways and you always have help when you need it."



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Jamie-Leigh Stevenson, 26, is currently completing a Modern Apprenticeship at Cornerstone, with the North Lanarkshire Supported Living team.

“I feel so grateful for being given the opportunity to do a Modern Apprenticeship whilst working at Cornerstone. The Modern Apprenticeship has been really rewarding so far. I have gained so much knowledge and understanding which has helped me to gain the confidence and self-belief that I needed to take my career as a high-quality carer even further.

It has been interesting to learn more in depth about my role as a Support Worker. I have enjoyed the whole experience so far and I feel validated in my job now for doing the Modern Apprenticeship, instead of basing my knowledge on experience only.

“To someone who is thinking about doing a Modern Apprenticeship I would say just to go for it and put your all into it if it is something you want to achieve. It is the most rewarding feeling after you complete a unit to see your percentage go up and have good feedback from your assessor which makes it all worth it!”



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"IT HAS BEEN REALLY REWARDING BEING ABLE TO LEARN WHILST ON THE JOB AND PUT MY NEW SKILLS INTO PRACTICE ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS"

LEWIS WALKER

Lewis Walker, 23, completed his Modern Apprenticeship in 2018 which then helped him to progress his career to become Team Leader with Cornerstone's South Aberdeenshire Community Support team.

"I decided to do my Modern Apprenticeship because it was a good opportunity to learn new skills and gain a qualification that is relevant to my role. It has been really rewarding being able to learn whilst on the job and put my new skills into practice on a day to day basis. Every day was a school day during my apprenticeship as I was learning all the time, and each day is really varied in my role.

"Doing a Modern Apprenticeship has really helped me to gain a better understanding of the organisational procedures and it gave me an overall awareness of how it all links together. I really enjoyed being able to write about my experiences and linking this back into practice.

"The support I received was excellent and I was well supported by the Training Academy – nothing was too much trouble for them!"



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"IT WAS INTERESTING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PROCEDURES AND LEGISLATION IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE. IT GAVE ME A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT A RESPONSIBLE JOB I HAVE, AND IN TURN HAS GIVEN ME MORE CONFIDENCE IN MY DAY TO DAY WORK"

MORGAN BURNETT

Morgan Burnett is a Support Worker at Cornerstone's School Park service in North Aberdeenshire and started her Modern Apprenticeship in August 2020.

"Doing a Modern Apprenticeship has been a really rewarding experience so far and I felt proud when I was able to show my assessor my progress and skills. It was interesting to learn more about the importance of procedures and legislation in health and social care which gave me a better understanding of what a responsible job I have, and in turn has given me more confidence in my day to day work.

"I would encourage anyone to do a Modern Apprenticeship if they got the chance, and it's a great opportunity to gain a relevant qualification which looks great on your CV!"



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Victoria Campbell is a Support Worker at our Newhouse service in North Ayrshire branch.

“I wanted to sign up to the Modern Apprenticeship to ensure I was giving the best possible care in my role as a team member as well as obtain the qualification that demonstrated I had the competence and skills to make a difference to the lives of the people we support. It was appealing to me to do the qualification through Cornerstone with familiar surroundings rather than going to college to do the qualification.

“It was really rewarding when I completed my SVQ more quickly than expected, which gave me a great confidence boost knowing that I had achieved a qualification in health and social care. I was hesitant at first to start the Modern Apprenticeship as I wasn't sure I would be able to return to learning again after so long, however since completing the qualification it has given me the confidence to continue my learning further.

“To someone who is thinking of doing a Modern Apprenticeship, I say go for it – you will really enjoy it and your trainer will be there to guide you with any help and support you need.”

If you want to register your interest and find out more, please click on our link below:

<http://recruitment.cornerstone.org.uk/index.php?q=recruitment/vacancy/C5642257-B5E8-4B70-AC72-17031CA6393C>