

Toby:

So I have worked for Cornwall Council for about 19 years. I started working for the Council within children services within residential placements. I moved through the career pathway going from residential to working more within schools and doing therapeutic work with children that were either under a child and care or under a child protection plan and through my time working within children's I undertook the traineeship and did my degree whilst under children services and then made the decision six years ago to move from children's services over to adult services and within adult services. I worked as a social worker with adults of working age adults with a learning disability before moving to work with children again as an adult social worker who are transitioning from children's services to adult social services and through that progression I progress now to a team manager within the safeguarding team. The challenges of working with adults within Cornwall are around finding the right services and the right provisions for each adult and finding the right support that each adult needs. We are a peninsula and we haven't got the ability to go to a different local authority on our border apart from Devon and if you're working with adults further down west we haven't got that ability at all so it's finding the right placements, finding the right support and finding the correct opportunities would be some of the challenges that we face within Cornwall. Also Cornwall has a larger than average older population so it's finding the right services and the right support for them. The support that Cornwall Council offer their staff

from my point of view and in my experience has been really positive. There's been lots of offering of training, very clear progression pathways and

the ability to grow as an individual as a social worker, to find different positions within the Council, so from my own experience of working and starting as a young individual working with children within a residential setting to progressing through the social work career pathway to becoming a team manager to where I am today, if you were wanting to move to Cornwall and to work as a social worker I believe that it's a fantastic place to work. I've lived in Cornwall for the majority of my life, very

happy to be in Cornwall. I think it's a great place to live. It's a great place to raise children and I feel that actually it's been a great place to practise as a social worker. It's got some really really good challenges that you face as a social worker with different age ranges and different abilities, different services, and I feel as a social worker I've been able to be really creative with the support that we offer the individuals that we're working with so the team working within

the Council is, I believe, really really positive. There are great links between each locality team and each service that Cornwall Council have, the opportunities for adult social workers but also there are other teams and other services that we all link in with and build really positive relationships. I think because we are on a peninsula we are out in the Atlantic on our own. As services we all recognise that we have a strong sort of working relationship with other services that build your practice as a social worker.