

Victoria:

So when my journey in social work in Cornwall started I actually was employed for a number of years as a youth worker in Cornwall. As the youth work service changed I ended up working in a social work team as a youth worker. I did that for a number of years and was actually encouraged by my manager at the time to look at the traineeship they just started. So basically the Council funded the degree path and within that traineeship you got the opportunity to work in lots of different teams prior to starting the degree so you kind of got an experience as a kind of family worker and working alongside social workers. And then obviously during the degree we had different placements so I was lucky enough to do an adult's placement and then I did my final placement in a child and care team and then once I qualified I was then placed in the team that I continue to work in now. So in terms of development in Cornwall, as I said I started off with the traineeship, I then completed my ASYE so that's your assess year in in practice through the Council. I am now just about to do my what they call a J grade panel so within terms of development there's a clear sort of career path so you kind of work your way up the stages and so at the moment I'm just about to do the J grade panel, so I've got to complete a portfolio, go to panel, evidence my continual learning through since becoming qualified. So in terms of the support that you get in Cornwall there is a dedicated practice educators team so you can access support the whole way through your ASYE. In terms of my team, my manager is amazing so she is on the phone anytime in terms of colleagues. We've got quite a diverse team in terms of their experience so that that's been second to none in terms in terms of learning different styles of practice and different bits and pieces and in terms actually as a collective force of social workers in children's there is support everywhere, everywhere you look. I guess being a social worker in Cornwall in terms of my job I work in what we call the FAST team so the family assessment support team, so we are the front door team. So we never know what's coming in on it so our work every day is different and I think we're in such a privileged position to work with families, children, young people in Cornwall and to offer that support at that moment in time that they need. It's an interesting place to work and there's lots of things outside of work which are great. We live in a beautiful beautiful county and and you know if you've got to work you may as well work somewhere where you know you can nip to the beach afterwards. But yeah there's lots of positives to working in Cornwall.