

# SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

## Overview

Working in the social services sector is to fulfill your passion for helping others. Roles exist in the public sector (local and national government and agencies), charities, social enterprises and some commercial organisations.

An overview of 27 major graduate jobs in this area (many with links to detailed job profiles with information on salaries, entry points, qualifications and vacancies) can be found on [Prospects.ac.uk](https://www.prospects.ac.uk) and [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk), including roles such as:

- [Advice worker](#),
- [Child psychologist](#),
- [Community development worker](#),
- [Counsellor](#),
- [Drug and alcohol worker](#),
- [Equality and diversity officer](#),
- [Family support worker](#),
- [Housing policy officer](#),
- [Probation officer](#),
- [Sexual health worker](#),
- [Social worker](#)
- [Youth worker](#)

In addition to these roles which are specific to the sector, there are a range of graduate roles which can be found in many industries, such as management, marketing, PR, IT, finance, HR and project management roles.

If you have a passion for helping others, the next question is to consider who you might want to help, and for which issues?

## Jobs and Internships

There are a few graduate training schemes advertised each year in social services. These usually include:

- [Charity-works.co.uk](https://charity-works.co.uk) and [Worthwhile.org.uk](https://worthwhile.org.uk) (one year schemes which cover a range of charities and social enterprises, some of which are in the social sector)
- [Sanctuary-group.co.uk/careers/graduates](https://sanctuary-group.co.uk/careers/graduates) (graduate schemes within a large, highly professional, housing charity)
- [Thinkahead.org](https://thinkahead.org) (graduate scheme for social work, focusing on adult mental health)
- [TheFrontline.org.uk](https://thefrontline.org.uk) (graduate scheme for social work, focusing on children and families)
- [Step Up to Social Work \(gov.uk\)](https://step-up-to-social-work.gov.uk) (government-run graduate scheme for social work)
- [Unlockedgrads.org.uk](https://unlockedgrads.org.uk) (graduate scheme for prison work)
- [Policenow.org.uk](https://policenow.org.uk) (graduate scheme for policing)
- [NGDP \(gov.uk/national-graduate-development-programme\)](https://ngdp.gov.uk/national-graduate-development-programme) (graduate scheme for local government work)
- [NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme \(nhsgraduates.co.uk\)](https://nhsgraduates.co.uk) (graduate scheme for hospital management)

Another common route into this work is to build your skills through volunteering or internships during your course, and then apply for entry-level roles (such as individual trainee opportunities) in the sector.

There are plenty of internship, placement and work experience opportunities in this sector. Although many (particularly in charities) are unpaid you may be able to use the [Reading Internship Scheme](#) to access funding.

When gaining experience, focus on the particular areas that you're passionate about: such as working with families, children, substance abuse or rehabilitation.

## Key Resources

[Reading University volunteering schemes](#) (many of these schemes give valuable experience which would support a job application for social and related work)

[RUSU Volunteering opportunities](#) (find causes to volunteer with build your experience)

[Do-It.org](#) (find local volunteering that fits your schedule and areas of interest)

[BASW.co.uk](#) (professional association for social work, has useful resources on entering the profession, and a jobs board)

[Jobs.communitycare.co.uk](#) (extensive job board for the social and community sector)

[Children and Young People Now \(cypnowjobs.co.uk\)](#) (industry news and a small-focused jobs board)

[jobsqopublic.com/vacancies](#) (public sector jobs board – filter by job area to focus on social and community aspects)

[Healthcareers.nhs.uk](#) (useful online questionnaire to highlight NHS roles that might suit you)

[Jobs.nhs.uk](#) (filter by staff groups and keywords to see relevant vacancies)

[Jobs.ac.uk](#) (higher education jobs board, including roles in student services)

[CharityJob.co.uk](#) (UK charity sector job board)

[Jobs.thirdsector.co.uk](#) (UK charity sector job board, linked to *Third Sector Magazine* which publishes charity sector news)

[Jobs.theguardian.com/jobs](#) (use keywords and filters to find roles that link with your interests, many social sector roles advertised here).

