

I work as an apprentice law clerk within the Legal department of Children's Services. A typical day involves updating information and evidence which is taken to court. I open and close files for court, sort costings, dictate letters for typing and arrange storage of legal documents. I also arrange for Legal Notices to be served. I have attended court cases and sat behind the barrister. I enjoy the variety my job brings, and I am never stuck doing one thing for too long.

I finished my GCSEs; A levels and 2 years of a Psychology degree. I was attracted by the NVQ with the apprenticeship; not having an NVQ had prevented me from applying for some jobs. I feel that my experience in trying to find work helped me to get this apprenticeship. I spent approximately 6 hours a week searching for jobs; and about 30 hours a week applying. I applied for nearly 20 jobs a week for a year. I even went on two buses and a train journey to one interview – I spread my net very wide to search for work, and now I spend one hour travelling morning and night.

Whilst job hunting, I worked part-time in a shop. I feel my experience at school helping to run the school shop helped me to get this position. Working part-time gave me experience of work which was valuable when applying for the apprenticeship.

I will have 12 months solid work experience and a useful NVQ to prove my abilities at work. I applied for the apprenticeship because of the NVQ and have spent approximately 4 hours a week at home working on it. I will also have transferrable skills to take to another job. As planned, the experience gained from the apprenticeship together with my NVQ will open up options for my future career.