

Transcript of Noreen talking about what a development worker does

"I'm Noreen Zareef, I work in the District Partnership Team for Hertfordshire County Council. My role within the district partnership team is to lead on a district to develop childcare provision or services for young people so we support the development services for 0-19 and that includes supporting schools to meet the centre schools core offer and children centres designated in every community and I also line-manage support staff that I have that go out there and do the hands on work.

Childcare has changed I think a lot over the years and I think you're quite fortunate to come into childcare now because your options are so varied, there's so much you can go into, whereas before you may have typically gone to work in a day nursery or pre-school, now you can go on to work as a children's centre manager, a children's centre worker, you could go into the extended schools field of work, be a development officer, there's just so much for you to do now.

If you're not currently qualified in childcare or you're exploring the option to go into childcare then there are events that take place through Young in Herts called Choices in Childcare. You can go along, it's a day's event and it enables you to explore your options, look at different fields of childcare, what qualification route to take and they also help you get onto a placement as well so you can have a placement in childcare setting which again will reinforce whether you enjoy working in that field or not and they will also fund your studies as well whichever route you wish to take there are so many different routes to take in childcare now.

Young in Herts offers different varied levels of support. Every year every childcare setting gets sent the Young in Herts training manual which they can also do online as well now and that offers all the training across the field that you would need. It's essential for Ofsted so there's child protection training, first aid and all different various sections depending on where you would like to improve and they also fund further education like degree levels and Young in Herts also offer support networks for providers so you can go along locally to a network meeting on a particular topic so if that's a topic of interest you can go along and there will be support.

I think the perception still is that you can go into childcare without any qualifications but there are so many people out there that are qualified now that the minimum requirements are a level 2 in order for you to get a job in a setting. We then go on to progress to level 3 which would enable you to get to management level or deputy manager for a setting but more and more encouragement towards degree level now.

There's more of a progression route now in childcare than there has ever been before and I think the Government's 10 year childcare strategy has helped to reinforce that and widen the options, creating more jobs so there's more of a workforce out there now and it's not just about going out and working in a setting hands-on with children, it's the planning around play opportunities for children as

well it's not just about setting up activities and getting on with it, a lot of thought needs to go into what the children are actually going to get from this activity. It's not just about the children anymore, what has also come to light in the 10 year childcare strategy is it's about the support role for the parents in order for the children to do well so by doing all of that, somewhere along the line you are actually doing something for the child and improving their opportunities and their life."