

You're never too old to learn!

At 81 years of age, Pauline Naismith has successfully completed her NVQ level 2 in Health and Social Care through Learn to Care. Pauline has been described as “an inspiration to us all” by David Stone, Registered Manager of All Seasons where she is employed as a community care worker.

Pauline said: “I did not think All Seasons would bother putting me on the course because of my age, but they gave me the opportunity and the chance and I took it with open arms. I really appreciate it and was so glad I got given the opportunity to do and achieve it. I am really proud of myself! and I would do it again”.

Pauline lives on the Isle of Sheppey where she looks after 2 service users. Her transport is the bicycle she had when she left school. “My bike is my best friend, it never lets me down. Me and the bike travel 24 miles a day, 12 in the am and 12 in the pm. I have had many new tyres on my bike; God knows how many as I have lost count!”



Pauline receiving the Employee of the Month award from David Stone, Registered Manager, All Seasons.

What made you want to do the NVQ?

“I wanted a challenge and to try my best to do it. I thought why not, everyone else is given the opportunity to do it so why not me! Just because I was 79 (at the time) does not mean I can not do it, so I thought I would and to prove to myself that I can still learn!”

What are the best bits?

“I really enjoyed the scenarios module around first aid and moving and handling.”

Any TIPS for new learners?

“If I can do it then anyone can! Common sense and knowing service users is a bonus.”

Would you do it again? Have you any other training planned in the future?

“Yes I would do it again, I really enjoyed it. I want to develop further but I know the next level is for a more senior position and I do not want that responsibility.”

Would you recommend one of your colleagues sign up for an NVQ?

“Oh definitely yes! There is a lady who works on the Island with another agency, who is doing her NVQ 2, who asked me in passing on the street if I had done. She then said, probably not because of your age. I replied, yes I have done my NVQ, would you like me to help you? Well actually I am helping her with it!

All Seasons (Kent) is a domiciliary care provider and is part Enterprising Opportunities CIC, working in partnership with KET, a registered charity. For further information on the full range of services All Seasons provides please visit www.allseasonskent.org.uk or call 01227 265899 and speak to David Stone. Alternatively, for further on Learn to Care’s courses and funding please visit www.learntocare.com or call 01227 265899 and speak to Kirsty Hawkins. Kent Enterprise House, The Links, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7GQ