

Meet Simon

Senior Independent Living Advisor,
The Rowan Organisation



Simon works as a senior independent living advisor with the Rowan Organisation.

They provide support to disabled people to help them live more independently. This includes supporting them to use a direct payment, personal budget or their own money to get the right care and support. This could be by employing their own carers, choosing an agency to provide care or buying equipment to help around the home.

What is a senior independent living advisor in social care?

In his role, Simon's responsible for managing a team of advisors.



His role includes:

- supporting his team and answering any queries they have
- resolve any challenges that disabled people might have
- signpost disabled people to suitable advisors and services
- networking with other care and support organisations
- maintaining the professional standards of the organisation.

“I get to support a team of gifted advisors and do all that I can to enable them in their role. In turn this helps to provide a truly personalised service.”

The Rowan Organisation encourage their staff to develop their skills and Simon has worked on other projects such as producing a promotional video for the charity.

 **Working to help others means you're not just a number, or another switch in a machine, you are something very different.** 

How did he get here?

Growing up Simon used to visit his Grandad who had dementia. At the time he didn't understand the condition and struggled to understand why his Grandad would forget his name.

After part time roles in a supermarket, bakery and petrol station he became a support worker, after a close friend told him to 'give it a go.'

He struggled with his first shift and barely made it through the day – however a colleague encouraged him to keep going. And he's so glad that he did.

Since coming into care work with GCSE's and 2 A-levels, he's gained level 2 and 3 qualifications and is currently working on his level 5.

I actually found a job that allowed me to be myself. They wanted me to work with people who had similar interests, and use my skills to enable others. They encouraged me to be me.

