

## **Alan Deans**

**TQAL (Teaching Qualification Adult Literacies) / 2008**

**Client Adviser for Scottish Government - Social Security Scotland**

### **Please can you describe your role?**

Ensuring claimants get access to the benefits they are entitled to.

### **What experiences do you think have proved beneficial to your career journey?**

Volunteering in the community/Networking through LinkedIn and local networks

### **What impact did the 2008 financial crash have on your career path?**

At that time I was in a contracted position within West Dunbartonshire Council which came to end in 2010, however I applied for an internal permanent post as a Community Worker and secured it.

### **What advice would you give to students thinking about employment in your field?**

I have moved to the Scottish Government as it is a permanent post with ample opportunities for promotion, variety and career progression. If applying for jobs with the Scottish Government then ensure you are up to speed with the STARR approach and answer the questions using 10% for the Situation, 10% for the Task, 60% for the Actions taken, 10% for the Result and finally 10% for the Reflection.

### **Is there any other advice you would like to give to current students moving from university to working life?**

Keep flexible and fluid, take up all offers of training and utilise on-line opportunities fully also. Never give up, nothing beats persistence!!