

### Character Reference for Ian Barkley

I worked for Oldham Council for 7 years which commenced in 2014. I started as an apprentice within the Adult Care Client Finance team, I worked within Adult Social Care for roughly 3 years in various roles, working directly and indirectly with Ian Barkley.

Me and Ian worked very closely in the earlier stages of my career as Ian "taught me everything I needed to know". From the day I started Ian took me under his wing and sat me next to him. He made me feel very comfortable and at ease. I remember being very anxious upon starting in the role as it was a new environment for me, but Ian made it very easy for me to fit in. Ian always found the time to teach me things, even if I had asked the question 100 times, he would laugh it off with me but still find the time to help. I know that if I ever needed help or advice I could approach Ian no matter the time of day.

As mentioned above I started my apprenticeship in January 2014, I was made a permanent Grade 3 within 6 months and I progressed quite quickly within the client finance team ending up on a grade 5 Senior Broker and Payments Officer. I can honestly say that without Ian's knowledge, experience and support, I am sure I wouldn't have progressed as quickly, which I am very grateful for. Even when I moved teams onto the brokerage team and even when I moved out of Adult Social Care and into Audit, we still had a great working relationship and would always find the time to help each other out.

In my time working with Ian, in no way was he aggressive, abusive or intimidating but what I did gather from my time working with Ian is, he is very passionate about his job. He puts 110% into his work and he works mainly with a resident focus and would go above and beyond his role to try and help the resident/client and ensure the council was following processes and doing things correctly.

Overall, Ian was one of the best members of the team in my opinion, for knowledge and for a laugh. When times were busy, he would stay late, take on extra work to help others but as well as this he also knew how to enjoy work and have a laugh at the same time. Ian was a great asset to the team and overall made my time in Adult care a lot easier.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



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