

A Day in the Life of a Social Work Student



9am: I started my day off at home (with Luna) checking emails, checking in with the team and going over a rough plan for my day as I was heading straight to a visit in Bo'ness this morning. The team I am working in has a WhatsApp group where we check in regularly, so we know who is where, who's available when last minute bits come in and that everyone is safe and well while out working in the community.

10am: Arrived in Bo'ness for a home visit to a Mum and 3 young children I have been supporting and completing an assessment with. Mum had sought support following a crisis period where she'd had surgery due to her disability, impacting her mobility and leaving her feeling isolated. We have sought support from adult social work; mental health input and referrals for group work to address her isolation; supported planning around health, future surgeries and the impact of this; made a referral to Aberlour for her eldest and implemented a rewards system and routines both at school and at home which has proven extremely valuable.

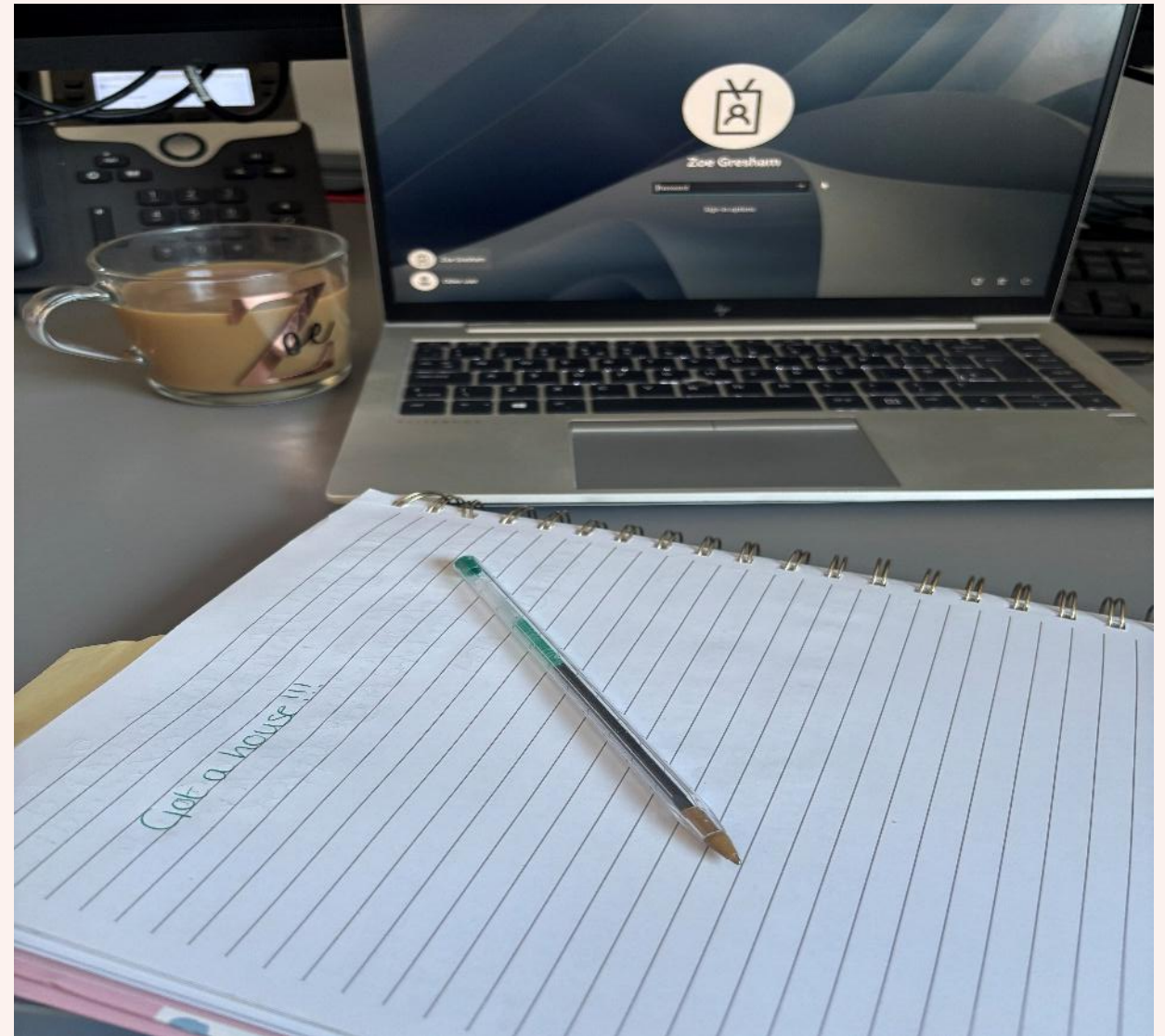




11am: I came back to the office to complete some notes from the previous evening and this morning. Case notes can build up quickly, so I try to keep on top of these at every opportunity when I have the space between meetings and visits. Despite having worked on Liquid Logic already I am still trying to get to grips with the children's system!



12pm: At this time, I was on a call to a kinship carer to check in and arrange a visit. The young girl I work with has been in this placement for over 4 years and is settled and happy. I recently supported her to a hearing where she expressed her wishes to remain on her Compulsory Supervision Order with a measure of residence there. I was delighted to hear that this kinship carer had been offered a new home after over 2 years of waiting!

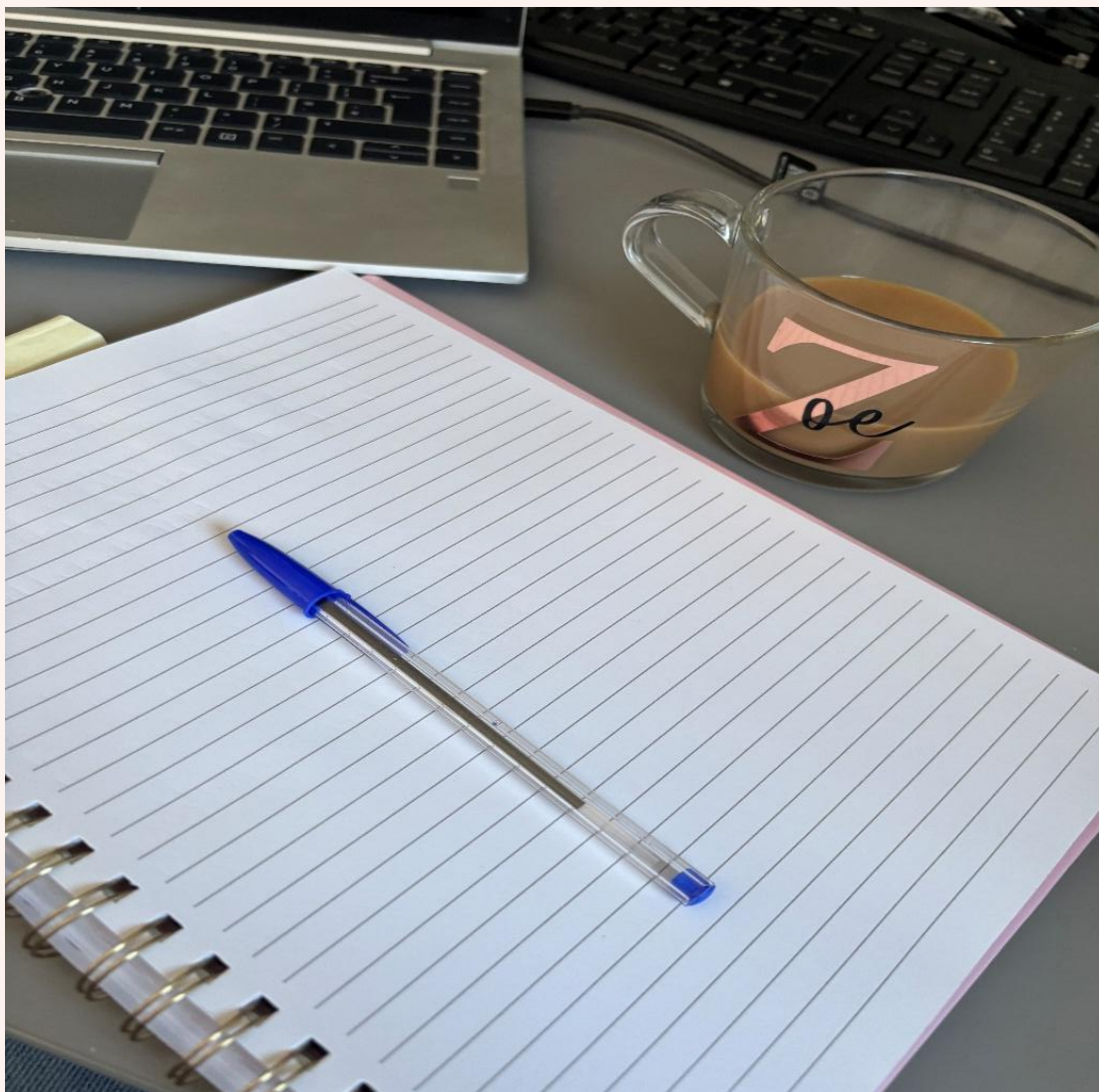




1pm: Grabbed some lunch (courtesy of Grangemouth Community Café) and spent some time preparing for an Initial Looked After at Home Review I had at 1:30pm. The parent and young person were not attending this meeting however were happy for it to go ahead and I'd sought their views beforehand. Usually, we would look to reschedule this however the decision was made to progress for an initial discussion and creation of an initial plan ahead of an upcoming children's hearing.

2pm: At this point, I was in the ILAAH Review with my link worker. This was my first review for a case that I was allocated and holding as a social work student, therefore I had also written the report ahead of time. I provided an update on my current contact with the family, ongoing assessment, and planned recommendation ahead of the upcoming hearing. This was made slightly easier given I had written a report for and attended the children's hearing 2 months prior, however significant changes were made then and there were lots to consider since.





3pm: I was out of my meeting at this point, and it was positive despite some changes happening very abruptly for this family. I had a debrief with my link worker about how this went and some positive feedback I'd received during the meeting from other professionals which is always good to take back to my Practice Educator and to add as evidence in my Practice Assessment Report (portfolio) at the end of placement! I had already arranged a home visit to the family for a few days later and will talk them through the contents of the meeting and plan then.

4pm: I had £100 approved to support another family I'm working with so popped back over to sunny Bo'ness to visit and drop this off. I was allocated this family for a pre-birth assessment, and baby was born premature at 32 weeks. He spent the last month in the Neonatal Unit at FVRH, and was discharged last week as he is doing great! However, Mums finances have been significantly impacted travelling back and forth every day, whilst also supporting her 3 other children at home, therefore funds were to alleviate stress and ensure the family have everything they need. I also signposted this Mum to the Young Patients Family Fund, where she can apply to claim back some of the expenses she's had during baby's stay.





5pm: Home time! I finished up my day in Bo'ness and headed home from there.

A huge thanks to Zoe Gresham for sharing her experiences of being a Social Work Student in the East Locality Children & Families Team.