

PARAMEDIC

A one-day diary from bright and early mornings to lights outs



Laura Kelly, Paramedic

Laura Kelly, 26, is a paramedic for North West Ambulance service. She lives in Salford with her boyfriend.

MORNING, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO CALL IT....

Alarm goes off at roughly 5.30 am. I'm not a morning person so I stay in bed as late as I possibly can. I get out of bed, shower, put my uniform on and leave for work at 6am, toast in hand. I head to my base station which is Central Ambulance station based in Manchester City centre. This is one of, if not the, busiest stations in Greater Manchester.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

Every patient I attend to. It varies how many patients I will attend to in a day depending on the types of incidents which I go to. As well as patients I, along with my crew mate, am responsible for our ambulance, equipment and drugs. We are accountable for EVERYTHING we do.

I GOT THE JOB...

Initially I wanted to be a medic in the Army, but life got in the way and I could not leave my family. I thought the next best thing was to become a paramedic. I love medicine but I always liked the emergency side. To be honest I don't think I could have coped with 7 years plus at university to become a doctor. I attended Edge Hill University and completed a course called Paramedic Science DipHE. I completed my student placements around Manchester and, after my 2 years of training I was

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL

SELF CARE AT HOME

LOCAL PHARMACY

GP SURGERY

WALK IN CENTRE

NHS 111 SERVICE

A&E OR 999

999 IS ONLY FOR LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES.

For health advice visit nhs.uk, a pharmacist, GP, urgent care / walk in centre, or call NHS 111.

offered a job with the ambulance service.

MY TYPICAL DAY...

I get to work for 6.30am, grab some vehicle keys and the controlled drugs key and sign on to our vehicle. Our control staff call us up, going through our basic checks and after that we are sent out to meet our first patient. That's the last we see of our station until dinner time (which we are never sure when we will get). Jobs vary every day and no two days are the same. Not every patient we attend to will end up in A&E. We treat patients on scene, we refer them on and some will attend A&E if necessary.

MY PROUDEST DAY...

Being part of the Manchester Arena attack support. I was not on shift that night but as soon as I heard the news I made my way to station to help out however I could. I was proud to be part of the Emergency Services that night, and all nights in fact.

MY MOST MEMORABLE DAY....

Delivering a baby into the world... well I've delivered five now, but the feeling never gets old.

THE WORST PART OF THE JOB...

Death, it's never nice to deal with it. I don't generally get upset about death, I sort of see it as a part of life,

but telling families about what has happened is always hard. Especially with older people who have been married for 60+ years and they lose their partner. That pulls on my heart strings.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB...

No two days are the same, it's great, you never know what to expect. One day it can be like a scene from casualty and the next I can be sat with someone casually chatting to them, while waiting for a GP to call us back so we can refer them on. Getting to meet so many different people is also amazing, people have some very interesting lives.

END OF THE DAY...

I am meant to finish at 6.30pm. Yes, I know, 12 hours days. And no, it never gets easier, but on the plus side I get more days off than the average 9-5 job. One of the downsides to being a paramedic is that you don't always finish on time. You basically finish when you've finish with your last patient. So, trying to plan things after work is a no no. (Ask my friends, they hate this about my job).

AFTER WORK...

I generally go home, have my tea and go to bed as I am usually back again at 6.30am again next morning.

SALARY - £21,000- £36,000 plus unsociable hours pay

QUALIFICATIONS – Degree in Paramedic Science/Practice.