



Maria Kornat

Branch Manager - Brentwood

**Hello, my name is Maria,
Branch Manager for Brentwood.**

About me

I'm Maria, a conscientious and committed branch manager thoroughly enjoying her work at Helping Hands in Brentwood. The team that I work with is second to none! We have fantastic, dedicated, kind carers who go the extra mile to ensure that the care we provide to our Brentwood customers is absolutely first class. Our customers regularly contact the office by phone, letter and email to tell us how marvellous our carers are and how efficiently the office is run, which makes me so proud. It is important to me that we work together as a team and I promote great communication as well as a collaborative approach to our care. It gives me a great deal of joy to hear that, because of our care, our customers are happy and safe in their own homes, especially when family members contact us and tell us how much their loved ones have benefitted from care.

I was born, raised and schooled Chelmsford. After studying, I lived and worked in London, returning to Essex to 15 years ago. My knowledge of the county and particularly the south area helps me in my role working for Helping Hands.

My experience and expertise

I joined Helping Hands in January 2020 with many years' experience within the public, private and voluntary sectors, bringing with me an ability to lead, motivate, train and inspire teams. I have extensive experience in creating and developing processes, enabling team cohesion to improve efficiency and providing caring service delivery. I am passionate about supporting customers and staff to reach their full potential.

Having worked for Essex County Council for over a decade managing administrative staff in children's and adults social care, relationships that I built over that time have enabled me to support our Local Authority to provide the best possible reablement care for our joint customers. Before joining Helping Hands, I was the Registered Manager of a residential substance misuse treatment centre managing a multi-disciplinary team of clinical, therapeutic and housing staff. It was extremely rewarding to create a safe and caring environment where vulnerable adults can access a person centred approach to addiction recovery.

I am a trained in competency with medicines, first aid, mental health first aid and I'm a disability confidence trainer and a fire marshall - extra skills for Helping Hands to draw upon!

Why I chose Helping Hands

The reputation that Helping Hands has for having a family run approach and providing an extremely high standard of care with integrity and passion was what attracted me initially. Having researched care providers in Essex, Helping Hands was amongst the best. The opportunity to apply for a maternity cover branch manager role in Basildon was ideal for me. Having secured the role at Basildon, I actually went across to manage the Dartford branch for a time and then transferred to Brentwood as branch manager. Because I have worked in three different branches within our region, I have gained a great deal of insight into how to run a branch at Helping Hands and I have had so much support from colleagues in our region and across the company. What I love about Helping Hands, apart from the amazing care that we provide, is that there is such diversity within the company in terms of culture, experience, age, beliefs, and the values of the company mirror my own personal standards.