



## **Identity – case studies**

### **Profile 1:**

I recently saw a medical student who had failed 3 modules of her course; in line with the regulations of the department, she was therefore asked to withdraw from the course.

She had wanted to be a doctor since a young age and before starting the course had undertaken quite a few vacations getting work experience in hospitals where she shadowed doctors.

She also volunteered with her local first responder service and defibrillator training team and was an active member of the MedSoc Society and had become firm friends with the people on her course and in the society.

Being a doctor was what she had aimed for as long as she could remember, so she was upset that she would be unable to fulfil this aspiration and could not imagine what she was going to do instead. She was upset and couldn't see a way forward.

### **Profile 2:**

I saw a final year student not so long ago who had been working part time during his studies in a large discount fashion store.

He came in for an appointment to discuss how he could find 'just a little job in Sheffield' for after graduation.

After some discussion, I asked if he thought retail management could be a potential career idea that he might want to pursue.

The client immediately rejected the idea and said he couldn't be a manager as he couldn't be the one in charge, he couldn't imagine being able to lead people.

Exploring this further, it emerged that he was the youngest sibling from a large family and within the family culture there was a kind of 'pecking order' and even in general conversation, his older siblings expressed their opinions forcibly and dismissed their younger sibling's ideas for not understanding enough about the world of work and how to get ahead.