



Harriet

Therapy Manager – Children’s Speech and Language Therapy NHS Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

What was your first role after graduating?

I worked as a teaching assistant whilst finding my first SLT job which was a band 5 post working in children’s outpatients and special schools.

What does your current role involve?

I lead a team of 28 SLTs and SLTAs who work across outpatient clinics, Child Development Centres, mainstream schools, special schools and families homes. My clinical area is dysphagia, including neonatal dysphagia.

At what stage did you decide which area of the profession to work in?

After graduating, I wanted a mixed post across paediatrics and adults but I had more experience working with children, therefore I got my first job in paediatrics which is where I have stayed.

How did you progress from your first role to your current job?

I worked as a band 5 for 2-3 years before progressing to a band 6 position which enabled me to specialise in dysphagia and pre-school complex needs. My family and I decided to re-locate and I took a band 6 job in school aged ASD diagnostics which I thoroughly enjoyed but wanted to return to working with preschool children. A Team Lead role in pre-school complex needs came available and I was very happy in this role working with preschool children with SEND and dysphagia, as well as developing my leadership and line management skills. Another recent opportunity arose to take on the Therapy Manager position, which I didn’t feel I was ready for but I took 6 month secondment to this role and have now been doing this role for a 1 year!

How have you used CPD and/or networking opportunities to help you progress in your career?

I have taken up any opportunities in internal and external training that the Trust has offered along the way, as well as been involved in service development and service delivery changes allowing me to network with other neighbouring trusts.

My advice to students looking to get into my current area of work:

Take whatever opportunities that are offered to you to develop your experience/skills, always keep looking forward and be looking for your next challenge! Nothing is impossible!

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