



Helen Dunn

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Therapist
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What was your first role after graduating?

My first role after graduating was a mixed Paediatric community clinic and Adult Learning Disability post. I loved the variety and joint working this post provided.

What does your current role involve?

To undertake assessments/ recommend appropriate therapeutic interventions in accordance with individual assessed needs. I also provide line management and clinical supervision to the Speech therapists working in the Midlands region.

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

I always wanted to work within Paediatrics and have always been interested in working with students with Special Educational Needs.

How did you progress from your first role to your current job? I completed many roles in the NHS from community clinics, special schools to working on a CAMHS ASD diagnostic team. In 2014 I began working in the Independent sector taking on managerial responsibilities for an independent service which led to my current post.

How have you used CPD and/or networking opportunities to help you progress in your career? You can never learn enough! Whether it is through courses (AAC, trauma) reading, shadowing Speech & Language Therapists or forums, CPD is essential and you never know when you will need that information. I find linkedIn very helpful for networking.

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

Do not be put off working in specialist settings, Providers such as Witherslack provide flexibility, creativity and development opportunities to support you. No two days are the same, it gives me a great variety of assessment and hands on intervention and it is a lot of fun!

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