



Kay Gillett

**Highly Specialist Speech and Language
Therapist
Guys and St Thomas' Community Health**

What does your current role involve?

Oversee Speech and Language Therapy services into Lambeth and Southwark Youth Offending Services. I also work for Lambeth Virtual Schools and a Secondary Special School. Offer 2nd opinions for Social Emotional Mental Health difficulties.

What was your first role after graduating?

Secondary special schools and mainstream schools

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

When I first qualified I wanted to work with complex needs! Working in a Secondary Special School developed my interest in working with adolescents an area I had never considered and I became involved with a YP known to the Youth Offending Service. I applied for the YOS position 3 years after qualifying.

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

Having split posts in our Trust helped me to gradually build up to my current role.

- 1) Special schools/mainstream
- 2) YOS/mainstream/special schools
- 3) YOS/SEMH special schools
- 4) YOS/Special schools/Virtual School

How have you used CPD to help you progress in your career?

It's essential to draw on knowledge of existing SLTs working in this field. CEN's are also invaluable, attending study days where I can. I keep on top of the literature and evidence base in this area – using the IJCLD app is really helpful as is following key people in the field on Twitter. I am also trying to develop my counselling skills further (Solution Focussed Brief Therapy)

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

Working with Secondary students in any setting is really beneficial.

Think about your transferable skills – we all work with children and young people who are vulnerable so you have the skills!

Think outside the box!

Contact me: Kay.Gillett@gstt.nhs.uk