

Please tell us your name, job title and a one sentence description of what your job is?:

Vicky Coatsworth. Specialist school nurse for SEND.

Supporting the school nursing team to support children, young people and their families 5-19 years, where there is an identified SEND need attending the mainstream schools in Southend.

How did you get into your current career?:

I was a Health Visitor in Southend for 6 years. Prior to this I was an adult nurse and worked in school nursing and family planning. I offered some support to the school nursing team and during this time the opportunity came to apply for the role of specialist nurse for SEND pupils. This was an exciting opportunity to broaden my knowledge and use my experience in working with families to focus on this specific need. It is an exciting new role that aims to ensure children with SEND have their health needs met.

Please give us a brief summary of your average day:

Each day and week are different in this role and I enjoy the variation.

The role supports the wider school nursing team to ensure they have the skills to identify any health needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities and the knowledge to offer advise and support to families.

Liaising with other professionals in the SEND arena to enable collaborative working.

Attending EHC panel on a rotation with other health professionals. I see children and young people in school and in their homes to complete health assessments where this has been identified as a need.

Has your job changed much over the years?:

This role is in its infancy and is constantly changing as we identify the needs for this group of young people.

What is most challenging thing about your role?:

Working only 22.5hrs a week and having 48 schools locally to support with the SEND needs.

What do you love most about your job?:

I really enjoy meeting with young people and seeing the positive impact that our support can have.

If you could change anything about your job or SEND services, what would it be?:

I would like some more services to support the mental health needs of children and young people with SEND, specifically those struggling to engage with education.

When you aren't at work, what are you doing?

I love to spend time with my family. Watching my children take part in their sports activities and going on days out to explore new places.