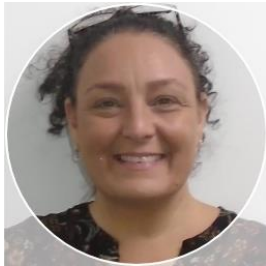
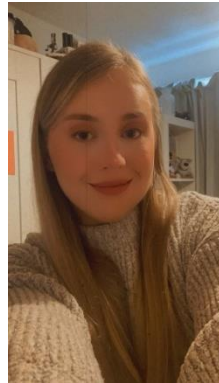


**We are lucky enough to be able to shine a spotlight on three members of the Preparing for Adulthood team. Claire Whitbread, Ella Durose and Kate Clarke all part of the Preparing for Adulthood team, which sits within the SEND team and are coordinators for Education Health Care Plans for secondary school aged children.**



**Claire**



**Ella**



**Kate**

**How did you get into your current career?**

Claire – I wanted a change from my previous role in safeguarding and I wanted to broaden my knowledge in SEN.

Ella - I have always worked within SEN, having previously been an LSA and managing EHCPs at a college. I have a disability myself and wanted to help others with additional needs.

Kate - I used to work as SENCo in a secondary school and worked very closely with my SEN coordinator to get the best outcomes for my students. When I was looking for a change, the position really appealed to me as the best of both worlds.

**Has your job changed much over the years?**

Claire – I only started at the end of December 2022 so I am learning every day.

Ella - I only joined this role in January, but processes and procedures continue to change to improve our service.

Kate - I have only been in the position for one year but it is ever-changing. We adapt, evolve and move forward.

**Please give us a brief summary of your average day**

Claire – I spend the day mostly writing plans, speaking or meeting with settings and parents, and gaining views of young people.

Ella - An average day is very varied; every day is different! I am always communicating and building relationships with education providers, young people and their families, ensuring that the SEND Service is supporting as best we can. I am also responsible for writing and distributing EHCPs, discussing and planning progression routes for young people, and anything else I can do to help.

Kate – My average day is spent checking and responding to emails from parents, schools and other professionals. I have meetings with SENCo's and parents, to have discussions around next steps and best outcomes. I write and amend EHC plans. And I meet with my team.

**What is most challenging thing about your role?**

Claire - Getting quality information about the young person that helps create a holistic pupil profile/support plan for the EHCP.

Ella - There are not enough hours in the day to enable me to do everything that I want to do.

Kate - Time, never enough.

**What do you love most about your job?**

Claire - Working with a great team and every day is different.

Ella - I really enjoy having the opportunity to help young people throughout their education. It is very rewarding as it makes me happy when I know I've made things a little easier for young people and their families.

Kate - When you can share good news with parents, either because you have secured the placement of their dreams or that their children has achieved their outcomes. When a parent emails to say thank you, it's all worthwhile.

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

Claire - I love to dance, have new experiences, paddleboard and watch movies.

Ella - When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, swimming, yoga... and relaxing! I also volunteer for a charity that support young people who have the same disability as me.

Kate - Paddleboarding, playing netball, snowboarding, running and spending time with my family and friends.