

Spotlight on - Paediatric Epilepsy Nurse Specialists

Louise and Kirsty are Paediatric Epilepsy Nurse specialists covering Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Mid Wales. They are both experienced children's nurses with a variety of experience having worked together on the acute children's ward at Shrewsbury hospital for over 10 years. Louise then moved into her Epilepsy specialist nurse role 10 years ago. Kirsty started her Epilepsy specialist nurse role 5 years ago.

They are hospital based and have a caseload of approximately 700 children who have Epilepsy; many of whom also have other varying medical needs including Autism, ADHD and learning difficulties or learning disabilities. Louise and Kirsty not only support these children and their families in dealing with their Epilepsy diagnosis, but they also provide training for educational settings on Epilepsy management and Epilepsy awareness.

Louise and Kirsty work to support the identification and reduction of health inequalities in the care of children and young people living with epilepsy. They also contribute to the improvement of health information required for Education, Health and Care Plan's, specifically for children and young people living with Epilepsy and SEND. Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities is a large part of their role and something they are both keen to develop and improve over the coming months.

Louise and Kirsty work in partnership with schools, children, young people and families to develop Individual Healthcare plans. The aim is to ensure that schools know how to support children and young people effectively and provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom.

They also regularly meet with children and young people within the outpatient's clinic setting, as well as acute setting, such as during admission to the children's ward at Princes Royal Hospital. They provide a telephonic help line for families to discuss any concerns related to epilepsy. This may also involve referral to other services to help support children form a holistic approach.

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