



Caroline Anne
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Clinical Dental Officer

Can you give us a brief outline of your work history?

Currently, I am a Clinical Dental Officer based in Brownlow Health Centre, Craigavon. I also work part-time in general dental practice. After graduating in 1996, I worked in general dental practice for 27 years before joining the Southern Trust in 2022.

What made you decide this career path?

During my time at school, I loved all things science and healthcare-related, so I was naturally drawn to the healthcare professions. I considered several different healthcare professions before deciding on dentistry as my first preference. Work experience as a school student was very helpful in making my decision.

How did you train for this role/educational route?

After completing my A-levels at school in Newry, I was offered a place at Queen's University, Belfast to study Dentistry. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Queen's as a dental student, and after graduating, I completed one year of vocational training before taking up a position as a dentist in general dental practice. Things change quickly in dentistry, so I am continually updating my skills, training, and education.

What does a typical day involve?

Working as a dentist in the Southern Trust, no two days are the same. We treat such a variety of patients with a range of needs in multiple different settings. On any given day, I may be treating patients in surgery, in hospital, at home or in a supported living environment. I may also be screening patients' oral health in schools or nursing homes. There is lots of variety in my role.

What do you like best about your job?

I love the fact that I get to meet and treat so many different people with a variety of needs and their families.

What advice would you give anyone thinking of doing your job?

For anyone thinking about a career in dentistry, I would advise some work experience and to talk to people already working in dentistry. Then, if it is what you want, I'd say "Go for it!" and good luck!