



Paula McBride

Senior Social Worker/
Team Manager

What does your job entail?

As the Senior Social Worker in the Family Intervention Team, I am responsible for the management of a team of social workers and social work assistants. My duties include planning and reviewing work undertaken, providing advice, support, and supervision to staff. I also manage the allocation of work and day-to-day priorities to ensure that clients' needs are best met. I love that every day is different!

How did you get into this line of work?

I worked with children and adults with autism and their caregivers for a number of years. Through this role, I was engaging regularly with the Multidisciplinary Team, including social work staff. It was at this time that I decided to change direction and look into social work as a career.

Outline your career to date

I have been working in family and childcare since 2014 and for the Southern Health and Social Care Trust since 2015. My career started as an Assessed Year in Employment (AYE) Social Worker in the Gateway Team before moving into the Family Intervention Team. In 2018, I moved into the Signs of Safety Implementation Team as a Senior Practitioner, and when this project was completed, I returned to the Family Intervention Team in 2021 as a Senior Practitioner. I have since become the Team Manager of the Family Intervention Team in 2022.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

- BSC (HONS) Psychology, 2011
- BSC (HONS) Social Work, 2014
- Postgraduate certificate in Professional Development in Social Work, 2017
- NI Specialist Award in Social Work, 2022

Whats the best advice you've ever recieved?

"Don't be afraid to try, whatever you do, give it 100%"

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love spending any free time I have with my family, I have two young children that keep me busy. I also enjoy reading and walking.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

- Have more confidence in yourself.
- Don't spend time worrying about the future, enjoy every day, everything will work out in the end.