

Bev Palmer, Behaviour Specialist

Bev Palmer, BA Hons, PGCE, is a National Lead Behaviour Specialist who has worked with young people with extreme challenging behaviour for over 15 years.

Bev has 12 years previous experience working as a Nurse for the NHS in Nottingham, including gaining a scholarship in 1986 to attend the Royal Marsden in London where she gained her ONC (Oncology Nurse Certificate); she later became one of the first Cancer Nurse Specialist in the Midlands.

In 1994 Bev left nursing to concentrate on her family and then retrained as a Counsellor, where she developed new initiatives in schools, churches and local communities to support young people who were at risk of offending behaviour or permanent exclusion from school.

In 2001 she gained her JNC Level 2 Professional Youth Work qualification and in 2002 completed a full time Bachelor of Arts degree in Youth & Community Work. On completion of her degree she worked part time for Frontier Youth Trust, a leading Youth Agency, where she set up Youth Councils to empower young people to have a voice and wrote training manuals for Youth Workers on

specialist subjects such as Self Harm and Loss & Grief. Her youth work experience has extended to detached youth work on a tough inner city estate, church based youth work and school based youth work.

In 2005 her work in schools expanded and she became a Behaviour Support Manager, responsible for the pastoral needs of all young people at risk of disaffection, disengagement or permanent exclusion. She managed a department and team of student mentors and developed several new initiatives in school to effect the outworking of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, which included art therapy, counselling, and alternative curriculum courses. She also contributed to writing Anti Bullying, Child Protection and Positive Behaviour Policies. In the same year Bev went on to complete a Post Graduate Certificate in Emotional Education and wrote bespoke courses for young people to help them learn new ways of behaving, this was met with great success and exclusions from school were significantly reduced

In 2008 Bev extended her learning further by attending and completing a unique course to become a Specialist Leader of Behaviour, this led to an expansion of her role and she



became an Inclusion Coordinator across the White Hills Park Federation of schools in Nottinghamshire. In addition to this role she has sat on and been a proactive member on various vulnerable young person's panels in Nottinghamshire and is well known as an advocate for young people. She is a lead professional on the Common Assessment Framework Tool and has been a Senior Child Protection Officer for over 8 years.

Bev has extensive multi agency practice and is currently working with Children's Services and the Foster Carers Association supporting young people with complex needs.

Bev's special interest is in helping young people, their teachers and families develop their emotional intelligence, she believes that all challenging behaviour is an attempt to get needs met and believes getting to the route of the need is as good a place as any to start. She currently leads workshops at Nottingham Trent University for trainee teachers, on 'Developing Emotional Intelligence to Support Positive Behaviour in the Classroom'.

In 2010 Bev left the school setting and became a Behaviour Consultant to address the wider needs of young people and their families and where she could endeavour to spread best practice to a wider audience. She undertakes behavioural assessments of children and young adults with challenging behaviour and works with Case Managers and other members of the multidisciplinary team to implement effective management strategies.



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