

Assistant Heads – Progress and Achievement

Jen Kemp BA (Hons) – Ashford, Tunbridge Wells and The Marsh Academy



I began my journey with the service in January 2008 being appointed as the LAC Education Adviser for Mid Kent. Since then I have witnessed a team of 5 advisers grow into a team of over 80 staff, developing into an integrated multi-agency service and then re-born as a Virtual School in line with the national directive for improving children in care's educational and health outcomes in 2010. Previously to VSK I graduated from university in 2003 having studied in Primary Education and post graduate Educational Studies and began work as an outreach project officer for children with social and emotional needs and led a team of colleagues to deliver peer mentoring schemes in the Swale schools district of Kent. As a team leader in KCC's Kent Safe School's service I also became county lead for Anti-bullying and represented the authority on the South East branch of the Anti-bullying Alliance. I am also trained in restorative approaches and mediation techniques, and have a particular interest in attachment and therapeutic approaches for children. As a VSK Assistant Head I am passionate about improving the life chances for our children in care and work hard to support colleagues in schools and social work teams to promote the importance of stability, continuity and meaningful engagement in education.

VACANCY – Shepway and Dover

Joanne Hayes BSc (Hons), PGCE and NPQH – Swale



I was very excited to start working for VSK in 2014. Working with children in care has been a huge part of my career. After studying for my Psychology degree and PGCE I began working with children in care, both as a residential worker in a children's home and as a teacher in a secure unit. Following this I worked as a Children's Rights Officer, advocating on an individual and local level for children in care of a London Borough. I also sat as an education advisor on a Fostering Panel for an independent fostering agency. After a short time working for Children 1st in Scotland I returned to teaching, working as an Assistant Head and managing a Pupil Referral Unit. I gained my NPQH in 2010".

Gina Turner BA (Hons) and PGCE – Canterbury and SENCo



I joined VSK as Assistant Head for the locality of Canterbury in January 2015. Prior to this I worked for six years as an inclusion Leader in a large Primary School in Thanet. The school had a specialist resourced provision for children with physical disabilities and a high percentage of vulnerable children and families. I have had in-depth training regarding ASD, ADHD/ADD, Attachment Disorder, various speech, language and communication difficulties, including alternative methods of communication. I am trained in and have used Makaton signs and symbols, social stories and comic strip conversations. Over the years I have learnt an extensive range of behaviour management strategies and techniques and have completed the Solihull Training course. I have also acquired the National Accreditation for SEN Coordination. I am very happy to become part of a pro-active, growing service dedicated to working towards better outcomes for children in care!

Simon Fosse-Collins BEd (Hons) - Thanet



I have been an Assistant Head since October 2014 and previously worked as an EWO supporting CiC with their attendance at school since 2009. Prior to this I worked with Kent Safe Schools delivering Youth Action Groups, Buddy Training, e-Safety and supporting children who had been excluded from Thanet secondary schools. I also have experience of working in Alternative Curriculum where I was a Course Leader in Dover, as well as experience of working with NEETS and long term unemployed people in Thanet.

Jemma Page BA (Hons) – Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling



My career started in children's nurseries where I worked for a large private group supporting and setting up new sites as well as working as a SENCO and deputy manager. It was in 2004 that I moved to work for Kent County Council as an Educational Welfare Officer. During my time as an Education Welfare officer I developed a passion for working with vulnerable and difficult to manage families supporting them to effect and manage their own changes became something I really thrived on. To this end I undertook many training courses in counselling skills, solution focus work alongside Solihull training and courses in ASD/ADHD and behaviour management. Alongside this I attended university on a part time basis where in 2009 I graduated with a BA hons in Childhood and Education Studies.

In 2009 following the theme of supporting vulnerable families I began work as a Parent Early Intervention manager – in this role I received training and qualifications to deliver and manage three out of the four core recognised parenting programmes, Strengthening Families, Incredible years and Solihull. This job was taking my passion of supporting vulnerable families one step further and gave me the ability to work with some of the most disaffected families in a more informed and effective way.

In 2010 I moved over to the LAC Advisory team which quickly became the Virtual School this role has given me the opportunity to use my skills to understand and support vulnerable children in care by trying to ensure the best educational outcomes for them in whatever format that may look like for each individual child.

Margaret Hamlyn BA (Hons) – Sevenoaks, Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and SENCO



I qualified as a teacher in the late 1970s and taught for a couple of years before going to live in Spain, where I taught English as an additional language and raised a family. On my return to the UK in 1997 I retrained as a teacher and studied for my Ba (Hons) degree in Education. I have also studied a post-graduate course in Attachment. I spent the following years working as a teacher in primary schools, moving to be a SENCO and then being given the opportunity to set up an inclusion unit within a secondary school. My last job before joining VSK was as an Inclusion Manager within a large primary school with its own on-site nursery. I believe this range of experience, and my passion for supporting vulnerable pupils helps me in my role as Assistant Head and SENCO for VSK.