

Professional Development Health Visitor

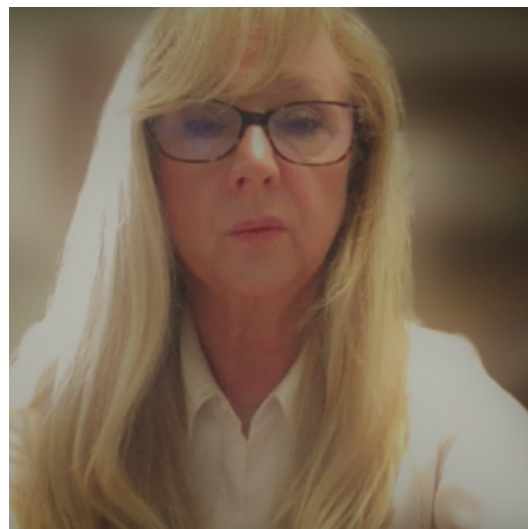
Donna Roberts

Health Visiting Children and Families Directorate



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My role is to set the professional learning agenda for the health visiting workforce in Bridgend. This involves prioritising the Health Visitor's time by matching the essential learning needs as they develop.

I enjoy watching staff become confident in their practice and develop into more senior roles. I also enjoy visiting universities and recruiting new students into the profession too.

A Health Visitor has a varied and eclectic job delivering a passionate public health focus to their role. They help educate the public and undertake key development assessments for children's milestones. The job is very broad with regular training through skills days and multiagency information sessions. This is essential to keep them highly skilled with the most current evidence based practice. Alongside these sessions, the Professional Development role supports staff to interact, support each other and develop specialised skills in mental health, basic life support and many other key public health areas.

Families in Wales receive regular visits at home from their Health Visitor. This offers the opportunity to discuss various topics from breast feeding, child development, lifestyles, preventative health and safeguarding children. These topics of discussion are routine on the Health Child Wales Programme, therefore, the Health Visitor has to have evidence-based practice to support the information they share with their clients. And part of my role is to source the best speakers to deliver this training.

Having spent 41 years in the NHS, working in numerous roles across nursing, midwifery and health visiting, it's been a lifelong career which has enabled me to care for patients and develop a vast range of skills. And I now use these skills to educate the future workforce.



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