

NURSING - CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mercy Maponga - (Health Visitor)

"Our role mainly is to promote health. We're public health nurses so its to promote health of the family and we have child health clinics which we do twice a week where families come with their concerns, we discuss them. We monitor the development of the child. If the mother is depressed it's going to impact on the child so we support mother's, father's, grandparents - everybody around the child."

Kehinde Idahose - (Community Staff Nurse)

"They ask you questions - simple questions ... baby rash, nappy rash, you tell them how to manage those things and they go home and it works for them and they come back "Oh it's actually worked! Thank you very much." You know you can't express these feelings, you feel very happy that you've been able to help them."

Mercy Maponga - (Health Visitor)

"You know when you're collecting the data, okay, these children have been immunised, this number is left, you actually know that you're one of the people that's driving those families to come and get immunised."

Stacey Tucker - (School Nurse)

"My job at the moment entails working in six primary schools and one secondary school in Tower Hamlets. Preconceptions people have about me being a school nurse is that I'm a nit nurse. I'm not a nit nurse at all. My job in school is to go in and work with families and children who have medical needs in school and to ensure that they maximise their full potential. That the staff working with them there know how to handle their medical condition in school. We also work with children that are subject to child protection plans or are vulnerable because their parents have a mental health problem or a substance misuse problem and we're there to support the child, and the school and the parent."

I came in to community because I really like the whole public health agenda and I went in to school nursing because I like working with children and families. They're the most honest people you could ever get to work with and you can have such a laugh with them. It's about getting them to fulfil their potential in life."

Lisa O'Brien - (Nurse Manager, children's head Injuries.)

"We run a rehabilitation service for children in between the ages of nought and sixteen who have sustained an acquired brain injury. We have a multi disciplinary team so it's headed up by the nursing and care staff. We have physiotherapist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, educational psychologist and a clinical psychiatrist. And we all work together to improve the abilities of the children following an acquired brain injury. We try to base ourselves on being a home and a big house really. So we've got the lounge area and we've got separate bedrooms for each child and its just so not like being in a hospital."

Angie Godden - (Senior Nurse, children's head injury services.)

"I love seeing the progress that the children make. I love the fact that this is rehab and is generally where children get better. It's really great when they start regaining skills and doing things like starting to walk again."

Lisa O'Brien - (Nurse Manager, children's head Injuries.)

"You've got to have good communication, I think that's critical. Because you're working with families and children who've sustained a significant injury whether its from a car accident or from having a brain tumour, these significant things that will basically change these families life, forever. And being a team player - you have to be part of the team to work in an organisation and a set up like this."

Angie Godden - (Senior Nurse, children's head injury services.)

"I've been here eleven years and I really wouldn't still be here if I didn't like it. So, y'know. It's a very rewarding job."

Lisa O'Brien - (Nurse Manager, children's head Injuries.)

"You can have a really challenging child and to actually sit and work with them put plans in place and give them their independence back and then you get the big smiley thank you'd. That is the rewarding part of the job - I love it. It's brilliant."