

Practice profile:

Pamela Grassick, an Education Support Worker for **Swiis Foster Care** talks about working with young people to ensure educational needs are being met.

What does Swiis Foster Care do?

SWIIS Foster Care offers short term, long term or respite foster placements for young people aged 0-18 years.

My work involves direct work with young people and their carers to ensure that the educational needs of all our young people are being met. This involves working with education establishments and other external agencies. I am also involved in initial visits to potential carers, education assessments and reviews, training and mentoring young people.

How does your day begin? Full breakfast or coffee on the run?

My day begins with coffee. I tend to have breakfast mid morning.

What is unique or particularly good about the work your organisation does?

The aim of the organisation is to offer each young person a placement that meets their personal, social, health, development and educational needs. To that end SWIIS Foster Care has recruited a multi-disciplinary team including education, health, therapy and social work staff.

Tell us a story from your front-line work.

I was recently working with a young person who had been placed in a foster placement in a new area. She had also moved to a new school and was finding it difficult to make friends. Her social skills were very poor and she was unable to establish new relationships. This put pressure on the carers as she was bored and therefore there was a certain amount of stress within the placement and at school.

I had experience of working with young people in Circle time groups and approached the school to ask if they would be willing for me to facilitate a group within the school which would include this girl. The school were more than willing for me to do the activities which I planned around social interaction and communication.

There were four 1 hour sessions and by the fourth week the girl had made friends and did not see a need for me to continue. The school were grateful for the piece of partnership work and it was a positive experience for all the pupils that attended.

Do you have any links to websites or documents for further information?

www.swiisfostercare.com

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