

Chelsey Meet the therapist

"Hi, I'm Chelsey, the therapy manager at bibic, I've been part of the team for five years. Being the therapy manager means I have a team of nine to manage within the therapy department and I love this part of my role as I get to help my colleagues develop into the best they can be.

I am also responsible for training and development. There are two aspects to this; training any new therapist starting with us alongside holding training seminars for other professionals and parents. This is so rewarding as I get to really challenge thinking around supporting our children and young adults, which helps to empower parents, carers, teachers and other professionals with new knowledge. They can then take this knowledge out into the world which helps to raise awareness and means children and young adults are better understood and supported.

Another part of my role is to continually develop the therapy team always searching for new and innovative ideas that we can use and then give to our families. Being part of the management team means I have to think strategically and help the charity to develop and grow our reach so we can support as many families as we can.

I am a Registered Qualified Test User (RQTU) which means I have a post graduate qualification to enable me to deliver educational testing and to monitor others using educational testing. I have just recently completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Social Psychological Inquiry (PG Cert SPI), and a Masters in Forensic Psychology (MSc For Psych(open)).

I specialise in extreme behaviours and have worked with children with behavioural difficulties for 15 years, 10 years within education and 5 years here at bibic, enabling me to make a significant impact on the young people that come to us by helping them understand and reach their full potential.

What drew me to bibic is its unique way they approach assessments, looking at the whole young person and not just specific areas. This means that more effective therapeutic strategies can be suggested that join up and make sense to the children, young adults and families. The holistic approach works well for our families as no one strategy works as effectively in isolation. This way we can make a real and lasting difference.

What bibic stands for fits within my own moral compass which is why I am so passionate about the work that we do here. 'bibic exists to enable children and young adults with neurological or genetic conditions to help them achieve their full potential'. I truly believe that there is no such thing as a 'naughty' child, there are no 'lost causes' just children or young adults shouting out for the right support, care and respect that they deserve. This is what I love about my job, I can be that person who listens, cares and respects them enough to give them a brighter future helping others around that young person to see beyond the behaviour to the vulnerabilities of the child or young adult to be able to change their outcome.

One of my most rewarding moments of which there are many, is a family I was working with a few years ago and still support now, because of my support the family have stayed together as one unit. The child has so much more help and understanding from others in their life now, which enables them to let their amazing personality shine too. They now have a diagnosis which means more support from other professionals. And finally, as a family they have grown; they all understand each other better which makes for a much more harmonious family environment.

The one piece of advice I can give families who are struggling is to understand that they are not alone. There are people out there willing to help and there is light at the end of the tunnel it won't always be as dark as it is now."