

## Lydia Gill, BA Social Work (2009)

### Where are you working now and what are you doing?

I currently work as a Social Worker for Walsall Children's Services.

### How has your career developed since graduating from the University of Birmingham?

When I graduated I took a couple of months to spend time with my son. I then began working for Spurgeons as a CAMHS Family Support Worker before taking the post I am currently in.

### What is the best thing about what you are doing now?

The best thing about my job is I am doing what I came into social work for - protecting innocent children. I enjoy interacting with families and then watching the parents empowered to manage their families without the professional involvement, as it is evident in the children's responses as it can be disempowering for parents to be told how to parent their children. I enjoy engaging the parents into work and witnessing the changes and working with the children makes the job so worthwhile. I view my job as the title of the guidance 'Every Child Matters' and I will work to ensure the needs of children are met.

### Did you find the University or your degree helpful to you in getting your first job?

The Social Work Degree helped me secure my job, especially the lectures that were based upon Government Guidance and the different parts of the legislation.

The Social Work Degree prepared me for my practice in respect of the legislation and law. The assignments supported me to develop my report writing and how to write for different audiences as I have to write case notes, court reports, statements etc.