



Sally Graham

Professional Summary

Dedicated and accomplished Safeguarding Practitioner with over 19 years' experience within Children's Social Services across the UK. Proven expertise in working with children and families in diverse settings including residential care, local authority services, court proceedings, and community-based interventions. Adept at building trust and providing tailored support to children, particularly those with additional needs, in school, home, and clinical environments.

Holds a joint degree with a specialization in Learning Disabilities and brings extensive experience in supporting neurodiverse children and those with complex needs. Qualified to assess parents with learning difficulties using a recognized court-approved framework.

Driven by a deep commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families. Currently developing plans to launch a Wellbeing Tutoring Service in Dubai, which will integrate emotional support with academic tutoring—addressing the whole child to foster resilience, wellbeing, and academic success.

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 Al Furjan, Dubai, UAE

 British

 Full, Clean, Driving Licence

WORK HISTORY

October 2024- present

School Counsellor (Primary)

Dubai British School Emirates Hills, Dubai

Providing social and emotional support to students in Primary and Foundation stage (ages 3-11) on a one-to-one basis, or small groups. Working to help children identify, talk about and manage their feelings to improve their wellbeing, having positive impact on their academic achievements. Working with the consent of parents and attending parent meetings to update progress. Completing parent talks to provide education

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Married
- Visa: Spouse Visa

KEY SKILLS

- Child Safeguarding & Protection
- Supporting victims of domestic abuse
- Working with Children with Learning Disabilities
- Court-Approved Parental Assessment

and advise on specific topics. Working closely with class teachers and SLT to provide tailored intervention to students.

January 2024–October 2024

Pastoral Support Assistant

Dubai British School Jumeirah Park, Dubai

Responsible for supporting students in Secondary (Year 7 to 13) with their emotional health and wellbeing. Completing 1 to 1 sessions with individual students, to promote self esteem, build confidence and model positive relationships. Completing small group work with several students, focussing on (Friendships, relationships, social skills). Part of the wider pastoral team, assisting with behaviour management and attending residential trips.

September 2023– December 2023

Individual Learning Support Assistant

Dubai British School Jumeirah Park Dubai

Responsible for supporting a high-risk student with emotional and behavioural difficulties within mainstream education, completing 1 to 1 welfare sessions to support conduct and manage emotions, ensuring inclusion and participation. Working closely with teachers and parents, to ensure a pastoral plan is in place which is productive, attending parent meetings to review and update the support plan.

September 2022 to August 2023

Parenting Assessor

Oldham Children's Services

Responsible for conducting detailed and evidence-based assessments with parents whose children residing in local authority care. Built constructive relationships with parents, using ParentAssess specialist framework to facilitate their understanding of the situation, liaising effectively with legal teams, upholding court commitments as necessary and delivering robust evidence.

Feedback and Recognitions

- **Feedback from a Judge at Court:** *Sally Graham, her assessment was very detailed. In my view, when reaching her conclusion this was based on a thorough and balanced assessment. In cross examination, in my view, she had obtained a detailed understanding of the mother and her children based on direct evidence, before reaching her conclusion. I found Sally Graham to be an impressive witness. She was able to articulate her views, and how she had reached these views, quite clearly and could expand upon her reasoning during oral evidence, she had thoroughly and fairly assessed the mother, before reaching her conclusion.*
- **Feedback from a Mother:** *I am so grateful of all my parenting session with Sally she has changed my whole view on my life, she always been honest and explained everything to me as to my understanding. I am so glad to have met such a nice lady she is a credit to the team she works for. I wouldn't have been able to make the changes I have without her help all I can say is I am forever grateful and thankful that I got the chance to work with such a wonderful woman.*

- Multi-Agency Collaboration
- Emotional Wellbeing Support
- Residential & Community-Based Support
- Crisis Intervention & Risk Management
- Holistic Child Development
- Academic & Behavioural Support
- Service Development & Strategic Planning

CERTIFICATIONS

- Advanced Certificate in Child Protection and Safeguarding for Leaders for International Schools, August 2024, Dubai.
- Level 2 First Aid for Youth Mental Health, January 2024, Dubai
- ParentAssess : Assessment of parents with learning disabilities, January 2023
- YPVA Qualification with CAADA Domestic Abuse Specialist, September 2014
- BAAF Assessing Foster Carers and Adopters, July 2008
- NNEB Diploma in Nursery Nursing, July 2000

EDUCATION

2024

Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Studies
Mind Your Health

2008 **Post Qualifying Certificate Levels 1 & 2**
Salford University

2006

BSc (Hons) Professional Studies in Nursing and Social Work (Learning Disability)
University of Manchester

April 2019 to September 2022

Practice Manager and Team Leader

Trafford/Stockport Children's Services

Led & developed a team of 10 social workers through various stages of case management, from initial assessment to adoption. Duties included routine formal & informal supervision, efficient allocation & approval of work, and championing effective communication with children's guardians. Supported the team through court appearances, chaired strategy meetings & managed a broad range of HR matters.

Key Achievements

- Successfully navigated the team through a demanding period of transition during the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing a comprehensive service redesign and managing the Ofsted improvement plan.
- Fostered a culture of restorative practices, enhancing both the quality of service and team collaboration, which significantly boosted team morale and performance.
- Demonstrated a strong focus on staff retention, developing a supportive work environment that promoted professional growth and led to an increased retention rate.

May 2011 to April 2019

Practice Manager & Senior Social Worker

Lancashire/Tameside Children's Services

Managed a complex caseload while simultaneously supporting newly qualified team members. The roles included multi-agency collaboration, conducting joint child protection inquiries, and steering the team through periods of change. Recognised as the lead for Domestic Abuse within the Public Services HUB, triaged all domestic abuse notifications and participated in daily meetings. Transitioning to Lancashire Children's Services as a Practice Manager, led a team of social workers per an Ofsted improvement plan. This included providing formal and informal supervision to team members, promoting reflective case discussions & managing case allocations and report approvals.

July 2006 to May 2011

Social Worker & Newly Qualified Social Worker

Trafford/Manchester Children's Services

Newly Qualified Social Worker at Manchester Children's Services working on a Child in Need, Child Protection, and Court Team, completing core assessments, writing court reports, and attending core group and child-in-need meetings. Subsequently joined Trafford Children's Services as a Social Worker.