

## Natalie Philbin

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### Personal Statement

Qualified Social Worker with over three years' UK statutory experience in safeguarding, assessment and care planning, most recently with **Lancashire Children's Services**. Currently based in Dubai, working as a **Client Advisor**, supporting families with relocation and housing needs.

Trained through the **Frontline Graduate Programme**, I have experience in child and family support, child safeguarding, permanency planning, crisis management and court work. I hold a **MSc in Advanced Relationship-Based Social Work Practice (Distinction, Lancaster University)**. My earlier experience in alternative education further strengthened my ability to create supportive environments where every child can thrive. In this role, I worked with children and teenagers struggling to access education due to social, emotional or environmental challenges. I delivered targeted interventions to build resilience and emotional wellbeing, enabling young people to make positive choices and re-engage with education.

I have proven skills in risk assessment, multi-agency collaboration and evidence-based decision-making. Additionally, I have skills and experience in critically analysing research, applying findings to practice and presenting insights clearly; highly transferable to roles in schools, government and policy-making bodies.

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### Education

**Lancaster University** - MSc Advanced Relationship-Based Social Work Practice | Distinction | 2020-2021

- Conducted independent research: formulated and investigated a focused research question.
- Critically synthesised evidence, evaluated competing explanations and drew reasoned conclusions relevant to social struggles and social work practice.
- Applied research findings, presenting insights, transferable to schools, government and policy roles.
- Core skills: systematic literature review, critical reflection, action research, transparency in practice.

**University of Bedfordshire** - Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work | Commendation | 2019-2020

- Focused on Social Work Law, ethics, social justice and evidence-informed interventions.
- Social Work Qualification obtained

**University of Leeds** - BA (Hons) Criminology & Criminal Justice | 2:1 | 2012-2015

- Conducted independent research for 12,000-word dissertation.
- Developed strong written, verbal, and presentation skills.

**Bury College** - BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Public Services | Distinction\* | 2010-2012

**Canon Slade School** - 11 GCSEs A-C including Maths, English, Science | 2005-2010

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### Professional Experience

#### **Client Advisor - Dubai | 2023–Present**

- Support families relocating to the UAE, including property search, community integration and relocation logistics.
- Apply assessment, problem-solving and case management skills in a client-facing context.

#### **Social Worker - Safeguarding & Care Planning | Lancashire Children's Services, UK | 2022–2023**

- Managed complex caseloads of children in need, child protection, and looked-after children.
- Completed statutory assessments, in depth direct work with children and court reports.
- Supported families experiencing family breakdown, domestic abuse, substance misuse, mental health & exploitation.

#### **Social Worker - Safeguarding & Care Planning | Gateshead Children's Services, UK | 2020–2022**

- Completed new qualified portfolio work and progressed to independent case management.
- Delivered interventions, permanency planning and family reintegration following separation.
- Represented the Local Authority in court, producing high-quality evidence and reports.

#### **Student Social Worker - Assessment & Intervention | Gateshead Children's Services, UK | 2019–2020**

- Conducted Child in Need, Child Protection Family Assessments under supervision.
- Supported families intensively to reduce risk and improve resilience.

#### **Key Worker - Adults | Starts With You – Motiv8 Project, UK | 2017–2019**

- Supported vulnerable adults into training or employment.
- Delivered multi-agency support across housing, finance, wellbeing and employment.

#### **SEAM Worker - Alternative Education | Heartlift, UK | 2015–2017**

- Delivered emotional, social, and behavioural support to young people with varying needs.
- Ran life-skills and wellbeing programmes alongside educational provision to increase integration.

#### **Children with Disabilities Support Worker | Heartlift, UK | 2015–2017**

- Provided respite care and interactive activities for children with varying needs and disabilities.

#### **Youth Offending Team Panel Member - Voluntary | Bolton YOT, UK | 2015–2019**

- Led restorative justice panels for first-time offenders.
- Completed AIM training to work with young people who had committed sexual offences.

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#### **Key Skills**

- Statutory child protection, safeguarding and permanency planning
- Court report writing, direct work assessments and evidence presentation
- Risk assessment & intervention (domestic abuse, mental health, substance misuse, family support)
- Research, evidence synthesis and applying findings to practice (MSc research study)
- Multi-agency collaboration and stakeholder engagement
- Client relationship management and relocation support