



south ayrshire
health & social care
partnership

Belmont Family First

Building resilience, nurture, confidence and connections.



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“Non-judgemental, positive support for the whole family”

Quoted from one of the Belmont Family First Families, October 2021

Belmont Family First

1. Background

South Ayrshire Council have a vision to place schools at the heart of their communities. Belmont Academy and the cluster primaries share this vision of creating a nurturing learning environment where not only can children be educated to a high standard and achieve successful results, but where they become hubs for whole family wellbeing.

The Belmont Family First Project will introduce a small team to the Belmont School Cluster comprising of a Senior Practitioner, Child and Families Social Worker and two Family Nurture Workers. The team will assimilate into the ethos and values within Belmont to contribute and deliver the vision of the cluster and our ambition to make South Ayrshire the best place to grow up.

2. Belmont Family First

Belmont Family First is a pilot project in South Ayrshire creating a family centred approach to early intervention. The project has been developed to support South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership meet the aspirations of The Promise, Scotland's Independent Care Review and our ambition that Children and Young People of South Ayrshire Grow Well, Live Well and Age Well. Based on the Ten Principles of Intensive Family Support the project aims to deliver a family centred approach to early intervention work, supporting children and families from the Belmont school cluster with their health, wellbeing, or family relationships

The project will work in partnership with schools, health, and community partners to support families to identify strengths, assets and resources that may enhance their wellbeing and enable them to reach their own goals.

The project will aim to provide valued and timely support to children and their families at the earliest opportunity, empowering families to strengthen their relationships, grow together, develop resilience and reach their full potential.

Meet the team

Hi. My name is Caren Rennie and I am the Senior Practitioner for the Belmont Family First Project. I am really excited to be part of such a great project that focuses on supporting families at a time when they need it most. I have worked in Social Care for 20 years and during this time have had various roles including working as a support worker and also as a service manager within children's houses. In my last role I was the team leader of a day service for adults with learning disabilities and loved supporting people to reach their full potential. Outside of work I love spending time with my family and friends. I have three children aged between 10-22 with each one born in a different decade. I am passionate about investing in the wellbeing of children and families and committed to keeping The Promise, ensuring families get the support they need at the earliest opportunity. I believe my lived experiences have had a huge impact on my own life, shaping me into the person I am today and I recognise the importance of engaging families as partners in decision making. I'm so excited to work as part of this amazing team within South Ayrshire, to improve outcomes for families ensuring our children grown up loved, safe and respected.



Hi, my name is Kirsty McKinna. I have been a qualified social worker based in South Ayrshire for 6 years. I am very excited to be seconded to the new Belmont Family First project for the next 2 years. I previously worked in the Children and Families Disability Team and people working in the authority may know me from this post. Over the years I have worked with many amazing families across Ayrshire and have great relationships with lots of the services currently supporting families and young people within South Ayrshire. I believe our new project (affectionately known as the BFF's) will be a great opportunity for us to work with families on a voluntary basis at the earliest possible stage to effect real change. I am positive our project will support genuine engagement and positive outcomes for families while working alongside them. I am very happy to be out of the house and around so many people again post lockdown and look forward to being school and community based going forward.



Hey, I'm Claire Stirling and I'm one of the Family Nurture workers at Belmont Family First. I'm excited to be part of a team that is here to engage with young people and families if they need any support. I love my job as I get to meet new people from all walks of life and I feel privileged to be part of their journey whatever that may be. I have been working with young people and families for over 15 years now and really enjoy my work. Originally from Glasgow I moved to Ayrshire around ten years ago and never looked back. Being by the sea is my happy place!

Belmont Family First is a new project and I'm excited to be part of such a positive and nurturing environment. I am looking forward to meeting all the Families and the young people I have the honour to work with. Knowing that my job is to support them achieve their full potential and to help them feel happier and better about themselves, brings a smile to my face

Hi I'm Natasha James, one of the Family Nurture workers within the team. I started my new post in July and felt so privileged to be part of a new project providing early interventions to children and families within South Ayrshire. I previously worked within mental health and addiction services and have supported many families during difficult times. A wee bit about me ... well I'm a dog lover as you can see and have a wee sausage dog called daisy. I mostly spend my spare time out walking, at the gym or with my friends and family. I'm very excited to be part of such a great team and an amazing project. I have a passion for making a difference in society and hope to help make the project become a success.



Hi, I'm Serena Castelli and I started my admin post for the Belmont Family First Project in September. I was previously working within Children & Families and prior to this I worked in Hospitality, Conferencing and Events for 13 years, gaining my BA in Hospitality Management along the way. In my spare time I can be found cooking, wandering around the fields or beaches with my pooch or in better weather planting and harvesting vegetables from the garden. I always try and push myself to continue my personal development, after recently completing a Foraging Diploma I'm now in the middle of a Herbalism Diploma Course. I strongly believe in a holistic approach to life and try to spend as much time as possible with friends, family and the outdoors.

Belmont Family First Approach

The Belmont Family First team are passionate about investing in the wellbeing of children and families and are committed to keeping The Promise, ensuring families get the support they need to thrive, now and in the future. The team recognise the importance of engaging families as partners in decision making and we aim to work in proactive, relational ways building on family assets and strengths, offering support and scaffolding to assist families to reach their full potential. The team embraces a strength based, child centred approach and will be trained in Nurture, Family based approaches and Signs of Safety.

Signs of Safety

Signs of Safety is a strength based, solution focused approach. The framework creates opportunities for family members and professionals to work together to meet children and young people's needs in the best way possible. It puts children, young people and their parents/carers at the heart of the work. Families work alongside professionals, discussing their worries and concerns that are identified for their child, (who is worried and why), identifying the things that are going well in the child's life (strengths), and agreeing what needs to be done (goals). This approach allows the family to build on existing strengths and reduce their worries and the views of children, young people, their parents and carers are central to this work.

“My worker really helped me”

Quoted from one of the Belmont Family First Families, October 2021

For Further information please contact Senior Practitioner Careen Rennie

Email : Belmontfamilyfirst@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Tel : 01292 616340