



Making A Difference – Who, When, Where, How?

June 2019

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**Mill Hill
Nursery School**



My Journey.....

Overcoming challenges
Never been easy or straight forward
Or expected



Became pregnant at 15 while
at school.

Had my daughter Beth at 16

Didn't go to college with my
peers

Received a lot of negative
views.... mainly that I wouldn't
make anything of myself.

Determined
Didn't give up
Persevered

I had an aim..... I
wanted to provide for
my daughter

Got my A Levels and
then went to University



At this point I still wasn't sure
whether I wanted to become a
teacher.

Got a place on PGCE

Following placements I got a job in
a school in Darlington.

Nursery Teacher



ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

I was happy and content

Worked with a good team

Developed an 'interest' in Early
Years

Achieved what I had initially set out
to do

End of my third year I applied for an Early Years Advisory job for Darlington LA Unbelievably I got it - as a secondment.

Then the panic set in

- Feeling of being out of my depth
- I was facing new Challenges
 - Scared of the unknown
- Could I do it/Was I capable?

However the opportunities that opened up through this role were amazing- the joy and excitement of being able to learn new things, hear speakers I had never heard before, made the job a truly wonderful experience.

It challenged my thinking and made me reflect on what I thought and did as a teacher.

The role was demanding, I had to work hard but I personally got a lot out of it.

The journey continues:

My journey into leadership wasn't planned... it unfolded
I just had to be brave enough to go with the flow.

Since then; doors have opened and the transition into
leadership continued in a way I never expected:

- **June 2011** – Applied for my first Head Teachers Job... I Got it!!!!
And started in September 2011

- **September 2014** – Became Head Teacher of Houghton Community Nursery

- **September 2017** – Became Executive Head Teacher of Houghton and Mill Hill
Nursery School

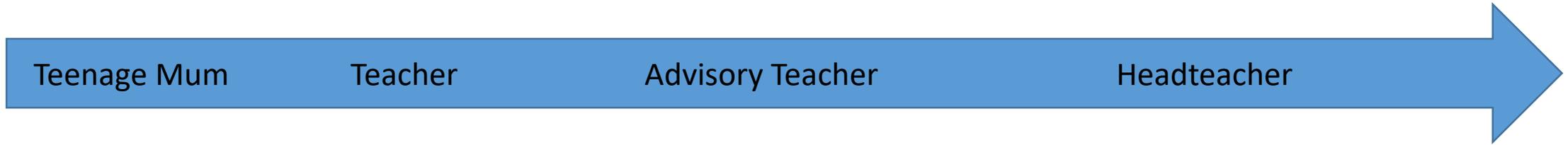
- **June 2019**– Working and supporting other schools, Delivering training, working
within other Local Authorities, Sunderland University

Looking back how did this happen?

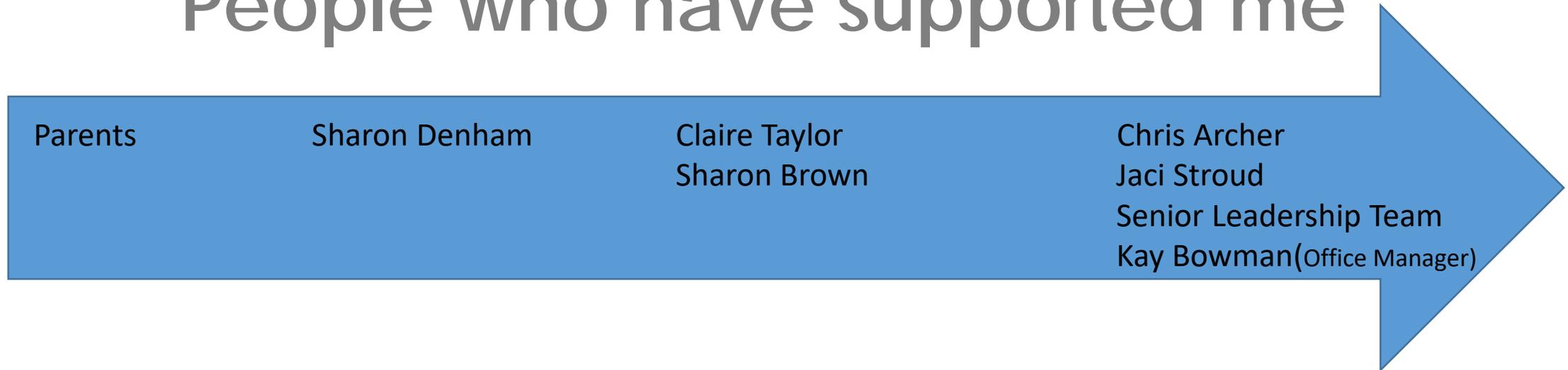
There has always been key people in my life who have supported me.

Ultimately they saw something in me that at the time I didn't see in myself.

My Journey



People who have supported me



Many of these people don't know the positive impact they have had on me – it wasn't what they set out to do

What did they do and why was their support so crucial

- Encourage
- Support
- Believed in me
- Prompt /challenged / guided me
- Listened to me
- Nurtured me
- Championed my wants/desires
- Allowed me to be myself and to be passionate
- Allowed me to follow my dreams
- Didn't judge me – age or being a teenage Mum.
- Were Patient

So you may be thinking.....

“That’s wonderful but how does that relate
to me?”

Or

“Why am I hearing about this today?”

Everyone can make a difference and be
that person to support someone else on
their own journey.

My own experiences have influenced the leader I want to be – it's a privilege

I want to make a difference.

I want to offer support to other people as I know personally what a big impact this can have.

Working in a school enables you to come into contact with many different people and see potential in them – it might just be a smile to a parent, a friendly word of encouragement or it may be something bigger.

- **The who** – is you!
- **The when** – Any point throughout the day
- **The where** – School and the wider community
- **The How** – by being supportive, by listening, by encouraging, by nurturing, by believing, by speaking out

You may never know if or how you have made a difference, but you are most certainly in a prime position to do it.

Looking back I still get surprised at the journey I have been on. I sometimes wonder how on earth did I get here, but I am so grateful that I have. I can honestly say I love my job and it is a privilege to be in a position where I can make a difference to children, their families, my staff and the wider community

You may be asking what became of Beth, she is 23 and graduated last year with a degree and Masters in Law and is currently a trainee solicitor.



Also Mum to Libby who is 11 and Jacob who is 9