

Dr Michelle Foster

I believe in empowering and working in partnership with families so that we journey together in achieving the highest possible level of care. To this end throughout my career I have delivered outstanding patient care and as my abilities have grown I have been able to establish across the trust inter disciplinary networks to enhance the care we deliver to children and improving the communication and referral pathways. In the wider NHS I have started to help other trusts by developing inter-disciplinary networks to help deliver effective patient outcomes.

I have been in my current role as a Clinical Scientist in Audiology at Sheffield Children's NHSFT since 2005 and I currently also provide scientific input for South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Prior to this I did a PhD in Diabetes in pregnancy where I loved the investigative research work and the ability to make a difference to patient care and outcomes. The driving force for me retraining in 2003 into Audiology was positive experience I had with patient contact through my PhD and the recognition of my desire to be able to enrich a patients journey. Starting as an Audiological Scientist I built up experience over several years and applied to be registered as a Clinical Scientist; I now have an enviable range of experience in Paediatric Audiology; conduct and interpret advanced audiological testing, write and collaborate on national Audiology protocols and also share my expertise in examining for the National School of Health Care for the scientist trainees. I have also presented at national conferences and this year I assisted on a regional apprenticeship implementation group to trail blaze a pathway for September.

I am enthusiastic, have made positive service developments and deliver exceptional clinical care to all I meet. The CSO WISE fellowship for me is an extremely exciting development which I feel will provide opportunities for me overcome any limitations placed on my current role and to exceed the expectations of those around me. I have had a passion for science since I was a child and I am elated to have this opportunity to inspire other women and girls into science careers and well as believing in themselves. Communication is a fundamental aspect of our humanity and having a hearing loss can be very isolating, disrupting our ability to relate to people on a day to day basis. In recognition of the continued stigma around hearing aids and the associated negative perceptions of hearing services, I will use the fellowship to raise awareness about the importance of good communication and the positive and life affirming role that audiology

can play in people's lives. I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to be mentored by senior leaders as well as attending the Wise Career development programme.