Catriona Jamieson Projects Manager PAMIS (Promoting a More Inclusive Society)

As a teenager, I was passionate about the work I did at a local care home. This gave me my first experience of working with people who had learning disabilities. After I left school, I undertook care agency work which gave me the opportunity to work in many different settings. I'm very computer literate and undertook projects which tackled health and social care inequalities including improving access to technology for people with learning disabilities and others who were excluded from technology.

I really wanted to become a nurse, but studying was difficult for me as an undiagnosed dyslexic. However I was influenced and encouraged by the nurses I'd worked with, and by the experience of my sister and her daughter who has profound and multiple intellectual disabilities. (PMID)

I took a non-traditional route into nursing, by taking access courses, and started training as a mature student at Napier University. I was swiftly diagnosed with dyslexia and with help and support from my tutors, mentors and family I was proud to qualify as a RNLD.

I always wanted to work with people who, like my niece, had PMID, and no one was surprised when I applied to work with PAMIS. My role is broad-there is no typical day! I could be working one to one with people with PMLD and their families or I could be working with practitioners including fellow LD nurses. I am often involved in supporting people to consider how they can work successfully with this inspirational group of people and exploring how to improve their health and social outcomes. With my PAMIS colleagues, I am involved in several areas of research around profound and multiple intellectual disabilities and have several specialist areas in which I deliver training.

I have been fortunate to benefit from some incredible opportunities since I qualified and my breadth of training in LD nursing has helped to equip me to take them as they arise. It is incredibly rewarding to work with our group.