



Kristine Reilly

I am 36 years old and now live in Northumberland with my two daughters. I have lived in Northumberland since 2012, moving from Hertfordshire in the sunny south east of the country (I hear you ask why, the weather is so much better in the South.. if only knew then)

In 2007, I followed my passion for Midwifery and began my studies at The University of Bedfordshire, I felt it was my calling and there was no other career for me. I was right however it seems that maybe I had another life journey that had to be completed first and due to my daughters Asthma I had no other choice but to postpone my career and focus on getting her well.

My eldest daughter has severe asthma and has been on inhalers and steroids (intermittently at first) since she was 4 months old, she is now 16 and the medication list became endless, I was once told by a male nurse that he had seen 80 year olds on less medication (scary).

Since relocating to the North East her asthma became so severe that she could not attend school and has had to repeat her GCSE years. With her asthma becoming so severe also came issues with the DWP, School and Housing, I have been made to challenge nearly every single government department I have come across because of their lack of knowledge and education regarding asthma and how severe and life threatening it is. I have had policies and legislation put in place and policies changed to accommodate medical conditions. I have become a specialist and an advocate in my own right for asthma and continue to update my knowledge constantly as new challenges arise.

We continue our asthma journey with great courage and strength, I do sometimes wonder how because if I am being 100% honest we/she have been to hell it feels and we are not completely back yet (nearly one hopes).

I am now currently studying to be a damp and mould expert due to the issues that have risen from our personal living environment, to be a voice for those who feel that they are not being heard and to gain beneficial evidence for a research project that I hope to get underway which will benefit Asthma sufferers, the NHS and other vulnerable individuals with respiratory conditions etc.