

Bernadette Hurley (BA Hons) Humanities with Religion & QTS.

Job Title Founder & Executive Director at Moss-Rose Cottage.

Please tell us about the work you are doing at the moment.

At present I spend my days ensuring that Moss-Rose Cottage is compliant with the highest of standards regarding provision, health & safety, appropriate insurance cover and working on the practical schemes that will guide individuals whilst on their journey with us.

When I'm not doing that, I am making contact with other parties that we will be partnering with. These range from other Community Interest Companies, to Universities, Health Boards and supporting bodies such as Race Equality Wales and Glamorgan Voluntary Council. Another important part of my work is building up our client base by liaising with local Brain Injury Teams and Case Managers. This ensures that our provision continues to be relevant and reaches the people most in need of our services.

The rest of my time is spent coordinating our fabulous team of advisors, overseeing any building works and with a team of girls called 'The Moss Roses' cleaning the property too.



What skills you are looking forward to sharing with us at Moss-Rose Cottage?

I think I am most looking forward to sharing the skill of instilling self-belief in others.

As a High School Teacher and Chaplain, before I imparted any knowledge, I told every child that they were 'precious and gorgeous' just the way they were. Although I will no longer be teaching, I recognize that one of the most important things that people need to hear as adults is the same; We all need to recognize our worth, then feel valued and appreciated. A natural progression of this self-belief will be improved self-confidence, self-esteem and contentment. This to me is more important than learning any skill and partaking in any other activity or experience. In fact, I would suggest that without these beliefs, you are far less likely to try new things as you may have a preconceived idea that you can't do something before you have even tried it.

Why did you agree to be a director at Moss-Rose Cottage?

As the founder of Moss-Rose I naturally became a director, but I was determined to surround myself with other directors who I respected personally and professionally to ensure that the project is as successful as possible.

What are you most pleased to hear will be going on at Moss-Rose Cottage?

I am most excited to know that we will be creating a space where people can come together and make connections according to their interests and not just be grouped with people of a similar ability or age. I am also really looking forward to helping those in need in our community with practical and friendly support too.

What do you hope we will achieve at Moss-Rose Cottage in the long term?

In the long term, I would like to think that other communities can benefit from the work that we are doing and replicate it. I hope this will be a successful way of strengthening communities one person at time.