

## Our nurses and midwives

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### Why I wanted to become a nurse or midwife

I actually didn't get inspired to go into nursing until I was 27. I spent my early twenties as a hairdresser and nannying abroad, and when I came back home, I needed a job. I ended up working as an Accident and Emergency department night receptionist. The nursing bug caught me there...and the rest, as they say, is history!

### On a typical day

In my role I spend time with a lot of nurses who work in General Practice, to make sure that we offer them the right support to deliver the care to their patients. I'll generally spend time visiting a practice and joining nurse/clinical meetings. I feel it is a really important part of my role to understand challenges 'on the ground', which is crucial if we want to make decisions that are beneficial for patients as well as NHS staff. I am also involved in a lot of system partner meetings regarding nurse education, training, recruitment and development. This year the CCG have released the General Practice Nurse Strategy and my aim is to support the delivery of this.

### How I've made a difference as a nurse or midwife

Last year I developed a new workforce model called 'Work Ready'. We recruited nine student nurses into the project and gave them a bespoke package of education and training alongside their final placement. This has enabled six nurses (so far) to be recruited into a General Practice Nurse post as a newly qualified Nurse, with more skills and training than would have previously been possible. This is a new model that we hope to become a new sustainable pipeline of new nurses with the support of the Training Hub, with the right skills, in the right place to undertake the many jobs available.

### What would you say to a young person interested in a career in nursing and midwifery?

I would tell any young people who are interested in a career in this field that it's such a challenging job, but it's so worth it. The long hours and stressful environments aren't cut out for everyone, but if you do feel this career is right for you, you'll have a chance to make such a huge difference to people's lives. Whether you're an A&E nurse or a General Practice nurse, you're helping people every day – a pretty incredible thing to be allowed to do in my eyes. It is a privilege to be invited into people's lives at what is often a very delicate and vulnerable time.

