

Our nurses and midwives

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Why I wanted to become a nurse or midwife

It was suggested to me by a colleague called Eileen when I was leaving a catering job and not sure what to do next; it took two more years for me working at the BBC where they wanted me to be an accountant before I applied and started training as an SRN. Once I started I knew I was 'home' as a nurse.

How my career has developed

I knew from early student nurse days I wanted to work in hospice and end of life care. I feel I've 'grown up' with Palliative Care in the last 30 years. Along the way I've got my BSc and MA as well as attended conferences and training days. Now a lead nurse after working in a variety of roles in palliative care and management in hospices and hospitals.

On a typical day

I try to get in early, before 0800, to tackle any urgent emails and staffing issues in the quiet. I may see patients on the wards some days; allows me to use my nursing skill set. Other days I'm in meetings with the CCG, Senior hospital trust managers and charities as I develop plans to improve and expand the services we offer. There's a real variety each day in my role.

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

I've always tried to share my enthusiasm for nursing and helping those people I meet who are nearing the end of their lives. I've helped others decide to start nursing, pursue a career in palliative care, and to learn how to provide care to the dying. I've taught in places such as Siberia and South Africa, as well as at the bedside wherever I'm working. My challenge has been to make care of the dying a normal activity for all, by helping those involved see how they can help even in small ways; helping people live as well as possible before their death.

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

I'd say it's a great opportunity to learn about yourself and what working with others can be like. Nursing and Midwifery has teamwork, individual responsibility and great satisfaction when we can see what a difference we can make. Being a nurse can take you to all sorts of places and in all sorts of professional directions.

