

Our South West nursing and midwifery people

Rachel Hughes

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On a typical day

A large part of my job is to operationally run the Children's Hospital, so I do not have a typical day – which is one of the reasons that I absolutely love my job.

I make decisions alongside all members of the multi-disciplinary team about elective and emergency work in our Tertiary Children's Hospital.

I take great satisfaction with the fact that the culture within our hospital is that everyone's role is as important as each other and we all play a part with ensuring the patients and their families have the best journey possible.

One of the ways I've made a difference as a nurse or midwife

I lead on Recruitment and Retention as one of my remits as Deputy Head of Nursing. In the last three years we have completely changed the picture at Bristol Children's Hospital with a recruited to turnover picture in all wards and departments including Paediatric Intensive Care.

We have our own in house orientation and support programme for new starters, a Faculty of Children's Education which delivers degree and masters levels courses for our staff and the wider region as well as three different rotational programmes within BRHC.

We were shortlisted for a National award this year for our R&R work and have a waiting list of staff wanting positions here at BRHC – it is all about challenging and changing the culture to 'what we can do for you' here at Bristol Children's Hospital.

What would you say to someone considering a career in nursing & midwifery?

The variety of the profession is immense; we are seen as professional, committed, flexible and highly knowledgeable and valued members of the wider hospital teams.

The flexibility you can have with your career is huge also – I have worked in America as a nurse as well as in many different hospitals in the UK.

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