

Our nursing and midwifery people

**Katie Cannon - Community Nurse, Hertfordshire
Community NHS Trust**



On a typical day

A day in community nursing is never the same. I start my day with a list of patients to see and tasks that I need to complete. It is never long into my day when I hit a hurdle! This can be due to a variety of things from a patient becoming unexpectedly poorly and I need to liaise with colleagues. It could be a blocked catheter or simply because I have spent too long chatting with the patient! I make my way to a team catch-up for lunch and a discussion about our patients. I look at my list of things to do, I send off a referral, phone a GP and order equipment and dressings, ticking each task off, one by one. Then it's back out on the road to the next patient and normally to find some things to add to my to-do-list. I sit in my patients' homes and listen to their stories of past and their future concerns, wondering how we can **best** support them. It's not a job that ends at 5pm, because in the middle of the night when your fast asleep the answers suddenly come to you!

One way I've made a difference as a nurse or midwife

I feel that as a nurse I made a difference to my patients' lives, being able to support them to stay at home and being able to listen to their worries and hopefully provide reassurance. It's a great feeling when I finish my day to think that I have made a difference to someone's health, their wellbeing and yes, their lives too.

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

I never thought nursing was a possibility for me as I am not the most academic person. I started in the trust as a Health Care Assistant in 2011, completing my NVQ3. In 2015 I went on to do a two year foundation degree to allow me to become an assistant practitioner, I then went on in 2018 to complete my 18-month nursing apprentice degree. This brought me to where I am today – a very proud, registered nurse and was all made possible due to the support of my trust and my manager. It may not always be the easiest job but the satisfaction at the end of the day makes it all very worthwhile.

Find out more about our nursing and midwifery people stories, and how you can submit yours, by contacting us at: England.nursingmidwifery@nhs.net



