

Our nursing and midwifery people

Melody Potdar, Matron for Care of Older People and Stroke and Lead for International Recruitment and Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) training, Weston Division, part of University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust



On a typical day

I am responsible for several different wards, some specialist nurses within the division and the care and safety of the patients and staff within these areas. My role can involve anything from helping staff with problems, to investigating incidents or complaints, to talking to patients and their families. I write reports for my wards, providing assurance to the senior team, and I am accountable for what happens within all my areas. I ensure that patients receive high quality care, and I monitor standards and make sure these are sustained. As divisional lead for pressure injuries and dementia, I also attend a lot of meetings to look at what needs to happen across the western division.

My afternoon is often filled with attending safe staffing meetings and bed meetings. Some afternoons and weekends, I support our overseas nurses who are undertaking OSCE exams. I provide pastoral care and educational support which helps our overseas nurses to adapt easily into the new environment and the local community. I spend time speaking with newly appointed staff to understand how they are feeling as new starters in the hospital and provide support and advice if required.

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

The implementation of career clinic initiative plans – the purpose of this process was to build a sense of opportunity and aspiration to our nursing workforce by offering support and advice for their careers, both in terms of their immediate and long-term goals. To continue to deliver high quality person-centred care across the division it is vital to ensure there is efficient and effective recruitment and retention amongst our registered nurses and career development structures are in place.

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

Becoming a nurse is one of the most noble acts a person can undertake. Nursing is all about the patient. I have no doubt that nursing is still one of the most inspiring and fulfilling careers ever created. It's a career that helps you save lives, bring happiness to individuals and their families and comfort to those in need.

As a nurse you can also travel to any part of the world to do your job.

Find out more about our nursing and midwifery people stories, and how you can submit yours, by contacting us at: England.nandm2020@nhs.net