

Joined Up Careers Derbyshire

Journey into health and social care – Susan’s story

What was your first job?

Trainee Personnel Assistant.

How did you get to your current role?

I secured a Level Three Apprenticeship through the local college working as a Trainee at the Derby City General Hospital (as it was known in 1993).



Did you move across different career paths?

Throughout my school years I wanted to take up a career in nursing and was lucky enough to secure a work experience placement which gave me an insight that I wasn't quite expecting – I made a very quick decision (arguably too quick with very little discussion with anyone else) and decided not to pursue the Project 2000 Student Nurse Programme. Fortunately I was still able to work within the NHS by securing a role within the Personnel Department which seemed to better suit than working in a clinical environment.

Did you face any challenges to get to where you are now?

Prior to working in my current role, I have worked in Operational HR within different settings in the NHS for 20 years. Whilst this journey has provided me with a fantastic career, I feel the main challenge I have overcome is a personal one in finding the right time in taking the leap from operational HR to a more strategic system-based role – if only I had taken it sooner.

What do you do now?

Programme Lead for Joined up Careers Derbyshire.

What is it about your job that inspires you?

I am inspired by the level of partnership working in my current role and the opportunities that this brings to making a difference. Joined up Careers is a fantastic platform for supporting the health and social care workforce which I am proud to be a part of.

What is positive to you about working for Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust?

Joined up Careers is hosted by Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. The Trust is a supportive environment to work in where the ethos of 'putting

patients first' is at the heart of everything we do. Development is encouraged and supported and I also feel grateful that I am able to work flexibly to meet childcare requirements.