



**Eleanor Weir**

Practice Education  
Facilitator (PEF)

### What does your job entail?

As a Practice Education Facilitator (PEF), I support & teach registered nurses and midwives in their supervision and assessment of nursing and midwifery students. I facilitate induction courses for Band 2/3 Health Care Assistants and Band 5 Nurses. I also work closely with the three universities to ensure that nursing and midwifery students receive the best clinical training in our hospital wards and community settings.

### How did you get into this line of work?

Having had nursing experience in orthopaedics, health visiting, care of the elderly, rehabilitation and infection prevention and control over a period of thirty years, I wanted to move into education. I am passionate about teaching the next generation of nurses and so applied for the role of PEF thirteen years ago.

### Outline your career to date

I trained in Belfast City Hospital and then specialised in orthopaedic nursing in Musgrave Park Hospital. After three years, I studied to become a health visitor, as I was interested in the role of the Public Health Nurse. When my children were born, I took a career break and then returned to elderly care nursing in the private sector. I returned to hospital nursing after completing a Return to Practice course in 2001, to a rehabilitation ward in Whiteabbey Hospital. Before taking up my current role, I worked as an Infection Prevention & Control Sister.

### Tell us about your qualifications and training

I studied at Queen's University prior to taking up nursing, completing a BA degree (I was not sure what I wanted to do after school). I studied at Belfast City Hospital, gaining my Registered General Nurse qualification after three years, following which I completed the Orthopaedic Nursing Certificate at Musgrave Park Hospital. I achieved a Diploma in Health Visiting at Ulster University. I completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Nurse Education at Ulster University seven years ago.

### What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

Patience, compassion, enthusiasm, and a passion to see nurses well trained and energised to deliver excellent care at all times; respect, humility & a desire to be a role model who inspires others. I need to be an encourager and have a good sense of humour!

### What is the best advice you have ever received?

Sometimes you just have to take on the new challenge and learn on the job.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love walking (particularly in mountains), especially when I visit my daughter and her husband in Switzerland. I love spending time & sharing meals with family & friends and trying out new recipes. During the Covid pandemic, I began knitting again; I particularly enjoy the challenge of Aran knitting.

### Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I walked the Inca Trail in Peru in 2005 to raise funds for Marie Curie. Wonderful experience!

### Who has inspired you most in your life?

My amazing children, who encourage me to try new experiences that keep me young!

### What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Get out of your comfort zone. Keep moving forward, don't stay in one place too long.