



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.