



Julie Munn

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What does your job entail?

I am very proud to say I have worked in the NHSCT for the past 38 years, I am Ward Sister for the Acute Assessment Area. I am currently in a secondment post as Lead Nurse for Professional Practice. As Ward Sister I am responsible for a 22 bedded Acute Assessment Area and I am accountable for the standard of health care delivery our patients receive. I am also responsible for the team, their training needs, performance, and maintenance of standards. The environment including infection control standards and audit. I manage staff payroll, staff absence, monitor patient safety and quality improvement with a focus on the Trust's Key Performance Indicators. I promote a change culture and ensure ongoing review and evaluation of new process. I role model, advise, support, nurture and enable staff to practice effectively, preserve safety, prioritise people and promote professionalism and trust. As Lead Nurse I support the Divisional Nurse to provide professional assurance and advice within Medicine and Emergency Medicine which is a division within the trust.

How did you get into this line of work?

I left school at 16 years of age knowing I wanted to work with people. I joined the Civil Service and soon realised this wasn't the role I wished to play as a public servant. I had friends in nursing, and I started to investigate this role and realised this was the profession I wished to join. To serve the public as a nurse is such a privileged role, position, and humbling experience.

Outline your career to date

I began my nursing career in 1984 by completing State Enrolled Nursing (SEN) in 1986 via the Northern Area College of Nursing and secured a permanent post in Whiteabbey Hospital. I later completed an Open University conversion course at Queen's University and became a State Registered Nurse (SRN). I progressed from Junior Staff Nurse to Senior Staff Nurse. I remained in Whiteabbey Hospital working in numerous wards covering medical and surgical environments for 26 years. I then became Deputy Ward Sister and transferred to Antrim Hospital in 2010. I became Ward Sister in 2017 of a general medical ward which has now transformed into an Acute Assessment Area. I have recently moved into a lead nurse role for Professional Practice, and I am enjoying the challenges of a new post with lots of learning and development, providing professional assurance and advice to maintain high standards of safe and effective patient centred care.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I left school with eight O-Levels and then completed by SEN nurse training and then SRN training at QUB.

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

As a nurse you are in a very privileged position and what you say and how you say it and what you do and how you do it may be remembered for the rest of a patient's life. You are respectful, honest, self-aware, compassionate, and caring. An excellent communicator and listener, a change agent to ensure up to date evidence-based practice is embedded and high standards of patient centred care is maintained. Your experiential learning enhances your knowledge, resilience, organisational and leadership skills. Working in collaboration with diverse teams ensuring best outcomes for our patients provides great job satisfaction. Treating our patients and their families as we would wish for ourselves, and our families is at the heart of nursing and of course having a sense of humour is a great asset.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

What you permit you promote!

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I managed to hide a new kitten from my dad for six months when I was a teenager. I brought it home from my grandmother's farm without his permission but in the end, he loved it as much as the rest of us.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

My family and siblings with their achievements and their can-do positive attitudes.

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

Never be afraid to fulfil your dreams and aspirations. There is lots of support and enablers in this world to help you on your journey and believe in yourself!