

STAFF STORIES

Edliz Kelly

Operational Lead, Edliz Kelly, has worked in the NHS for 16 years. Here she talks about her evolving career and why she moved to the West Midlands to progress into a managerial role. She also has wise words for anyone thinking about joining the NHS.



Can you talk me through the different roles you have had during your time with the NHS and explain a little about each one?

I graduated from The University of the West of England in Bristol and was offered a job at the Royal United Bath Hospital working in the Acute bedded Orthopaedic and Trauma Unit. This was a brave step for me as during my time there, I nursed post operatively patients and RTC related injuries. The job was fast paced and certainly challenging but my determination, commitment and tough mentors got me through it.

After 3 years in Orthopaedic and Trauma, I wanted to enhance my knowledge and skills in emergency medicine. I secured a place back home at the Royal Surrey County Hospital as a staff nurse in A&E and I had the privilege of working with an incredible team. I found it hard joining A&E back then but as a junior nurse, I was full of enthusiasm. My career has been full of adrenaline, variety and the sense of saving lives have been euphoric. In 2010 I started a family and moved to the West Midlands where I was able to secure another role in the A&E department at Russells Hall Hospital post maternity. This is where my career really started to peak.

Since starting with the Dudley Group I have held numerous job roles like Junior Nurse, Junior Sister, Practice Development Nurse, Senior Sister and Lead Nurse of ECHT. In 2020, I was delighted to be given my new role as an Operational Lead for Dudley Clinical Hub. I have been lucky enough to have the Trust's investment to support my career to date by providing me with accredited education and the tools to upskill from both Clinical and Managerial roles. I continue to have the same drive, enthusiasm, commitment and passion as I did when I first started in the NHS and I am surrounded with supportive colleagues who keep me in line and provide a platform for me to thrive on.

Is there anything you have been particularly proud of during your time with the NHS?

I am proud of the opportunities I have been given during my career which have enabled me, as a nurse, to change the lives of patients and their families when they are most vulnerable and unwell. The sense of duty of saving someone's lives is indescribable.

I am humbled to have met some incredible healthcare professionals throughout my career, who have inspired me, challenged me and supported me!

How has the NHS changed since you first started?

The NHS has evolved and devolved with many improvements and innovation over the years. We are very lucky to have the NHS as a nation and there are now multiple opportunities for all staff to develop.

Is there anything you would say to people thinking of joining the NHS?

Working for the NHS gives you the sense of satisfaction knowing you are caring for people and contributing to the health and wellbeing of thousands of people every day. Join and come with an open mind. There will be days when things go wrong but you acknowledge them, learn from them and get up to go again.

If you could sum up the NHS in one sentence what would it be?

The best is yet to come, embrace the challenge and you will continue to be the reason someone lived today.