

My Nursing Journey: Anne Scott

I began my nursing career in 1987 as a student nurse at the Charles Frears' School of Nursing in Leicester with my clinical duties based at the Leicester General Hospital. The nursing profession was very different then with a very hierarchical and often very 'scary' seniority and as a first year student nurse you were often seen as being at the bottom of a very tall ladder!



During one of our first lessons we learnt how to make a bed with 'proper hospital' corners and how to do a 'proper' bed bath! This was followed with learning how to take observations and how vulnerable it can feel to sit on a bed pan! Then we were allowed 'out' onto the wards where I learnt how vulnerable I felt in uniform, in front of a patient who required my help. However I quickly learnt the art of being a nurse and the power of a smile, the force of kindness and the knack of appearing to be juggling several balls at once whilst remaining calm and in control – albeit on the surface!

I qualified as an RGN in 1990 and since have taken every opportunity that nursing has offered to learn and develop. Nursing is a great profession and being a nurse is a privilege. I am passionate about the difference nursing can make and I'm very proud of my professional qualifications. I have cared for many patients and their families over the years in various clinical settings and in various different roles.

I have seen nursing change over the last 31 years and it will go on to change, embracing new technologies and new developments in treatment and advances in health-care. However a nurse's unique ability to care for someone through a smile, with kindness and compassion will never change. Every human being has the right to be treated with respect, and it is nurses that help ensure their patients receive the respect they deserve whilst making sure the patients' concerns are being addressed and cultural and ethnic beliefs are being respected.

I am very proud and feel very privileged to be acting as your director of nursing, allied health professionals and quality. Since the start of the COVID pandemic, this feeling of pride has grown; I am so proud to be part of the great work you have achieved over the last few weeks and how you have all stepped up to the Covid challenge. The pace at which you have adapted to working differently, some having to work in different teams, in a different environment, living the values of the Trust, has been truly amazing.

I have been so humbled to see all the great work you are all doing on the frontline and also for those of you working hard behind the scenes; maintaining a sense of business as usual in very unusual circumstances. Your passion, commitment strength, professionalism and hard work is to be admired.

To quote several nurse colleagues from around the world, I believe that being a nurse is to know when to turn on your tough and when to turn on you human and when to find a balance in between. It means you will see people at their worst and at their best, some will bless you and some will curse you. You will never cease to be amazed by people's capacity for love, courage and endurance and you will see life begin and end. You will experience resounding triumphs and

devastating failures. You will cry lots and you will laugh lots. You will know what it is to be human and to be humane and you will make a difference.

Anne Scott

Interim director of nursing, allied health professionals and quality