

## My Nursing Journey: Tracy Yole

I was 18 years old when I went off to become a nurse. I was one of the first of the new generation of nursing students. We were on a trail blazer nurse training course, which moved away from the traditional Florence Nightingale style training, which then ultimately became the university based courses that we have today. When I qualified I always aspired to be ward sister by the time I was 25.

My first post as a qualified nurse was on a medical ward but within a few months I realised that my heart lay within the fast paced life of acute surgery. I then moved over to a vascular surgical unit where I stayed working my way up the career ladder to ward sister. I was 24 when I became a ward sister. It was one of my proudest moments.



I then slowly worked my way up the nursing career ladder to assistant director of nursing and deputy chief nurse. As rewarding as these posts were, for me they took me too far away from patients and direct service transformation, which is where my real skills and passion for nursing remain.

It was then the post of lead nurse in Community Services came up. Three years in, now deputy head of nursing. I still love my job. It is full of challenges and complexities, where no one day is the same as the next. I am very passionate about making sure patients get high quality evidence based care, while making sure our staff feel confident and competent to work at the top of their licence.

I was the clinical lead for the Building CCHS Transform Program, which was very successfully rolled out across community services. One of the key IT collaborative components went on to win the HSJ Award for Partnership working. Such a proud moment and a truly transformational piece of work that we have been able to share with colleagues from all over the country ever since. I also work with specialist teams to exploring and develop new clinical pathways, to ensure that our patients always get high quality evidence based care. An example of one of these new pathways is the Biofilm Pathway; which is having some excellent results for our patients with chronic wounds and the implementation and now proven sustainability of the required, national wound care assessments.

I am still as proud, confident and competent a practitioner and leader, today wearing my navy uniform, as I was on that first day, as a Ward Sister.

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