



# My Working Day



**My Working Day as a:** Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Governance

**Organisation:** St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust

**Type of organisation:** NHS acute secondary care provider

**Job title:** Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Governance Job

**Job type:** Executive Director in the NHS

**In which country are you currently working?:** UK

**What does your job involve?:**

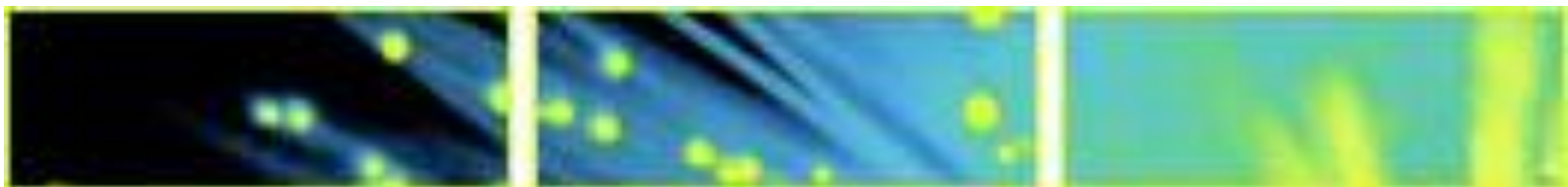
Board level working in a large NHS trust. Leadership of Nursing and Midwifery. Ensuring compliance with standards of health care provision and patient safety, including safeguarding and management of incidents.

**My typical day:**

I arrive in the office around 6am and generally clear my e-mail and perform admin tasks for the first hour. I usually have some time to work on reports or catch up with individual managers regarding current issues or difficulties before 9am. My diary is generally booked up weeks in advance between 9am and 5pm and these cover a vast array of subjects - today's topics include workforce planning (making decisions about how many nurses to recruit) establishing a medical response team (to improve care for patients who are deteriorating) a meeting about budgets and savings to be made. Between meetings I will be going through papers for the patient safety meeting later in the week and later in the afternoon I will be going to a meeting at the PCT with regard to the quality measures in the contract.

**Three things that I like about my job:**

**(1):** I like the variety of my job and the fact that each day there are vastly different things that come up and have to be dealt with.



**(2):** I like the people I work with, not just in the hospitals but those I meet in other health organisations and education, social care, police etc. I especially like working with people who I am helping to develop and encouraging them to grow and achieve their own ambitions.

**(3):** I like the challenge of changing situations and finding that a whole day mapped out is suddenly overturned because something has happened that needs my direct attention.

**Three things that I'm not quite so keen on:**

**(1):** I miss being directly involved in patient care, I very rarely get chance to do any hands on clinical work these days and it isn't enough for me (although I am sure my nursing colleagues are glad I am not under thier feet)

**(2):** I am frustrated by political change that filters down to local level and often doesn't seem to make any sense with regard to patient care. This gets even more frustrating when I seem to spend so much time gathering information to send out of the organisation that doesn't have much use or application internally.

**(3):** I would like to have more time each day that isn't consumed by meetings, that would enable me to get around to the wards and departments more often as there is no better way of finding out what the real issues are.

**Key points in my career development to date:**

It is funny but I never had any ambition to travel this far up the managerial hierarchy and I am still not sure how it happened. Twice in my career I took sideways and once a downwards move in order to get the experience I wanted - I recommend it as a means of building experience and knowledge. I have now been in the NHS for 27 years plus 3 years as a student nurse and have enjoyed all my roles, even if some of them came about by accident.

**What I wish I'd known when I was a student:**

That the NHS is much bigger than the department you work in, that anything is possible if you don't give yourself restrictions and that you will learn much more from patients than anyone else you come into contact with.

**Tips or advice for those looking for jobs:**

What sets you apart from other people? Do you expect to be given a job that fits your requirements or are you prepared to be flexible and do whatever you need to get experience?

Who comes first you or your patients?

Do the World of Work programme and get the understanding that will give you an advantadge both now and in the future.

