

Primary Care Journey as a Mature Student – Claire Jones

My NHS career started many years ago within Primary Care, my role developed from a receptionist to a health care support worker in a GP practice of which I thoroughly enjoyed. It wasn't until my early thirties I finally made the decision to take the leap and start my adult nursing career at Birmingham City University.

I had always wanted to return to primary care and upon qualifying I was fortunate to join a GP surgery as a practice nurse, the knowledge and skills I had developed throughout my student nurse years supported my role and many of the skills I had learnt through my training I found were transferrable to primary care. The practice was very supportive and I had the opportunity to attend the relevant training courses to help fulfil my practice nurse role. Unfortunately due to part time hours I made the difficult decision to leave primary care and joined ITU as a staff nurse for 3 years.

I finally returned to primary care in 2010 as a practice nurse and my career path has been very rewarding ever since with my role developing from practice nurse to nurse manager and lead advanced nurse practitioner (ANP). My skill set varied from wound care to childhood immunisations and travel consultations to name but a few. I had a specialist interest in respiratory conditions and completed asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) degree modules and also registered with the Association for Respiratory, Technology and Physiology (ARTP) to perform and interpret spirometry.

I currently work as an ANP at a GP practice two days a week and Deputy Lead Nurse for Primary Care Birmingham and Solihull CCG three days a week.

Throughout the current COVID-19 pandemic my ANP role has been challenging, I had to learn the use of digital platforms, telephone triage and video consultations. This brings me to say primary care is changing, there will be more opportunities and new ways of working with digital technology.

Primary care has enabled me to have a very rewarding and fulfilled career and I still have quite a few years to go 😊