Return to nursing with Hampshire Hospitals

NURSES who have taken time away from the profession are being encouraged to return to nursing by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Nurses who take time out from their careers often find their registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has lapsed, meaning they cannot return to work as a nurse until they have regained this registration.

Hampshire Hospitals, which runs Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester, and Andover War Memorial Hospital, is keen to help these nurses get back to clinical practice. Working in partnership with University of Southampton, the Trust runs a 20-week return to practice programme twice a year.

Hampshire Hospitals offers full educational support and practice placements in a wide range of areas throughout the programme and nurses are employed at the Trust once they have regained NMC registration.

After seven years away from nursing, Mary-Eudora Nwasike is now working on a medical ward at Hampshire Hospitals after successfully completing the programme.

“Thinking about going back to university and training again was daunting, but you get a lot of help,” Mary said. “The lecturers were brilliant and I got a lot of support from my colleagues on the ward and the Trust in general.

“Patient care is still the most important thing. That never changes in nursing. The basics are the same as well, so if you were a good nurse in the past, you will be a good nurse now.

“I’m loving being a nurse again. Looking after people is my passion and I missed it really badly. At the end of the day, I go home knowing that I have helped somebody. That is the big joy I get from nursing and it is unique to the profession.”

Donna Green, Hampshire Hospitals’ Chief Nurse, added: “We are really keen to encourage experienced and compassionate nurses to return to practice to help us to continue to give our patients outstanding care.

“We’ll support you all the way through the process and once you are re-registered there are a wide range of opportunities available across the Trust, with flexible shifts and personalised rotations available.”

If you are interested in the programme, Hampshire Hospitals is holding open mornings at both Basingstoke and Winchester hospitals, where you can find out more and meet members of the team.

The events are taking place at The Ark Conference Centre, Basingstoke hospital, between 10am and 12pm on Wednesday 21 June and in the restaurant at Winchester hospital between 10am and 12pm on Thursday 22
June.

Visit [www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/work-with-us/return-to-nursing](http://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/work-with-us/return-to-nursing) or email [learningenvironment@hhft.nhs.uk](mailto:learningenvironment@hhft.nhs.uk) for more information about the return to practice programme at Hampshire Hospitals.

ENDS

Photo: Mary-Eudora Nwasike is enjoying life as a nurse after returning to the profession with the help of Hampshire Hospitals

Notes to Editors

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 600,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 6,000 staff and a turnover of £353 million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

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