

Case Study

Real South West London

Real Jobs

Real You

South West
London
Integrated
Care System

NHS
South West London



Name:

Wendy Majewska

Job Role:

**Primary Care Training Hub Lead,
South West London Mental
Health and WellBeing Hub**

Age:

Over 55

Location:

London

How long have you been working for the NHS?

For over 45 years.

Did you have any worries about finding a good job?

No, I soon realised that when you start working in the NHS, the trick is to look at the opportunities that are there. Work hard on what you're doing, show you're willing, you're committed, smile, and be kind to patients. It's not hard, it's not Einstein. Then see what doors open – and you can push open so many different doors. That's really important for people to know.

Has working for the NHS changed you?

Training as a nurse allowed me to do many things. I've done BBC television over the years. I've done radio, I've worked in three different countries, and I've spoken at the House of Commons – all because I'm a nurse. It's not because I'm special. It really is down to my qualifications and experience of working in the NHS.

What are the positives of working in the NHS?

The NHS is the biggest employer in the country and it offers wonderful opportunities. Anybody coming into it needs to think: What am I good at? What am I naturally good at? What support do I need to develop? Where do I want to go? You might want to stay in the job that you're in – and that's absolutely fine. Or you might want to try different things or go up the career ladder. All these approaches are fine. The most important thing? To do a good job, whatever you're doing.

“
The NHS offers wonderful opportunities.”

What have you learnt about the NHS?

The NHS is not what you think it is. There's much more to it. It's more hard hitting and much more direct. And you've got to get rid of the notion that it's just clinical. In reality, you can go into marketing, you can go into accountancy, you can go into all of these different things.

What have you worked on recently?

We wrote to the careers advisors of every secondary school in Kingston and Richmond, copying in the head teachers, telling them about a bi-annual webinar we were holding, which promotes NHS job opportunities to pupils. We tell students if you want to train as a doctor or nurse, that's fine. But if you want to train as an electrician, carpenter or as a chef, have you thought of the NHS? Do you want to train as a therapist? There are just so many opportunities.

“
**Here I am successful
Here I am SW London**”

Tell us about your career progression

From 1983 until about 2014, I worked in HIV and sexual health. It was groundbreaking, challenging and distressing, and we saw it evolve over the next 15 years to the point we have a treatment now. I then trained as a nurse and went into management and workforce development because I like education and training. I also trained as a councillor and a therapist.

Is there anything you would change?

I was at a school a couple of years ago with about 60 kids in this big assembly hall. I said: "Hands up who knows somebody or has a family member who works in the NHS". Probably about 35 people put their hands up. I was like: Oh, that's really great. So now hands up anybody here who's interested in working in the NHS?". Three people put their hands up.

We've got to do something about that. I think the messaging needs to change a bit, to be honest. I think it needs to be: The NHS is not what you think it is. You've actually got to remove the perception that it's just clinical. There's so much more to it than that.

Would you encourage others to apply for work within the NHS?

I've worked for the health service for over 45 years and I can't think of a better organisation to work for. Yes, there are challenges. We hear about them every day, but I sometimes think we do ourselves a disservice by talking about how hard it is in the NHS and how difficult the job is. I'm not saying it's not, but most jobs people do are also difficult but in different ways – whereas ours is always rewarding, incredibly rewarding.

Tell us more about apprenticeships

I think apprenticeships are fantastic. The word 'apprenticeship' is a thing that I think is looked down on by people. We've really got to change that mindset. Also, if you're in a job and want to get training, look at the apprenticeships because there are so many different levels available.

www.swlicsjobs.co.uk



Real South West London

Real Jobs

Real You



South West
London
Integrated
Care System

NHS
South West London