**There are learning and development opportunities within the Trust at every level. Whether you join as a student nurse straight from university being given the chance to have your own caseload or a full-qualified team lead, there are programmes to help you develop your skills.**

**“Nursing gives you so many transferable skills. It doesn’t matter which direction you start from, there are so many opportunities to build and develop your skills” - Jacqui.**

Jacqui Wynn, Luton and Beds Head of Children’s Services began her nursing career working with adults on a hospital ward, in intensive care unit and in the neuro critical care unit.

But, while a student nurse, Jacqui had taken a placement in community services and decided ultimately that’s where she wanted to be. She made the transition from acute hospital to community, joining the District Nursing team, spending a total of 15 years in the adult sector. “I was able to work flexibility while my children were young balancing duties as a parent with a continued stimulating and rewarding nursing career,” said Jacqui.

Later when considering a change, Jacqui joined children’s services where she trained as a school nurse. Taking promotion as a qualified school nurse, she also lectured university students on the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing pathway, allowing her to add extra skills. From there, Jacqui went on to become 0-19 team manager. When the opportunity to lead the education team presented itself, with the responsibility for managing training for staff at all levels Trustwide, Jacqui capitalised on her earlier lecturing experience and secured the role.

Now back in children’s services as head, Jacqui is facing new challenges. “Community services give nurses the opportunity to make sustained change in people’s lives,” she said. “They have more influence over a person’s long term health. Holistic care has a whole different context than in the hospital. It is a privilege to be invited into their homes and build a relationship with them. It allows you to see the wider environment to be able to facilitate change, promote healthier lifestyles and improve long term outcomes.

“There are opportunities everywhere; the chance to take on new challenges and I have never been afraid to step out and go in a completely different direction. Nursing in the community provides many opportunities to be innovative.”