

# Team Lead Physiotherapist

**Laura Purnell**

Allied Health Professional



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I help to manage a team of 25-30 physiotherapists and admin staff, my role is split 60:40 (clinical to non-clinical). I help to organise the team with annual leave, rotas, sickness, clinical rotas and cover. I cover a musculoskeletal caseload of patients and supervise less senior staff from a clinical perspective. I have a key role in the day to day running of the department and pool. I am lucky to work with patients in the hydrotherapy pool for two sessions per week.

I love interacting with people from patients and their families/carers to internal and external NHS colleagues. Working with such a large team gives a variety of experience on a daily basis and fantastic learning opportunities. I feel lucky to work in the hydrotherapy pool twice a week as I get such rewarding results with patients.

As a teenager I had physiotherapy for shin pain at the old Ystrad Mynach hospital. I was instantly attracted to the profession and the caring nature of the role. I did my research and I was then fortunate to start some work experience on a weekly basis in the physiotherapy department for a year. Here, I gained experiences in both outpatients and on the wards.

Despite the competitiveness of joining the physiotherapy profession, I worked hard and got the results I needed to join the BSc Hons course in Birmingham, in 2002. I graduated in 2005 and I secured a job with Gwent Trust as a then, junior physiotherapist. Since then, I have completed my B5, and B6 rotations in physiotherapy, before working at County Hospital for 15 years in the Musculoskeletal Outpatient Department as a senior physiotherapist.

Since having my little boy in 2019, I have come full circle back to Ystrad Mynach, and I joined Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr as a team lead physiotherapist and continued my hydrotherapy practice here.

The NHS means an awful lot to me. Working in the health board which Aneurin Bevan lived and worked in, is a wonderful privilege to me. We are extremely lucky to have the NHS in



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our country, and it has served both myself and my family extremely well. Although we face daily challenges and hardships at work, I feel that it is a service that needs to continue into the future, especially for our future generations.