

# Lead Dementia Nurse

Amanda Whent

Person Centred Care Team



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I am part of the Corporate Nursing Team within the Person-Centred Care Team. My role is to support people living with dementia and their carers within the health care service. I work collaboratively with voluntary services, third sector agencies and health and social care teams to help support seamless, holistic dementia care. My aim is to facilitate an environment and plan of care which supports a positive experience of health care, optimising meaningful engagement and a person-centred approach to care.



I enjoy making a difference to the patient experience. Hospitals can be very scary, confusing, and lonely places for people who live with dementia. Being able to support adaptation to someone's care which enriches that experience and reduces these negative feelings makes my work worthwhile. Maximising awareness of dementia and the roles, responsibility and skills staff can develop to make the time and interventions that someone receives in hospital more compassionate is very rewarding.

I wasn't very good in school, I finished without any qualifications. However, I was offered a college and work experience placement at the local community hospital. I was "looked after" by a very special, kind, compassionate older nursing assistant who influenced my life, she persuaded me to apply for a job at the mental health hospital when I was 18 and I was accepted on a part time post.

I started working for the health authority on a youth training scheme at the age of 17, before working in the mental health hospital at the age of 18 as a Nursing Assistant. I worked and attended evening adult learning classes to gain my O Levels. I was accepted for my registered mental health nurse training at the age of 23 years. After qualifying I worked in many jobs, departments and gained many promotions. And now, I'm 55 and I'm working in a post that I feel honoured to be intrusted with.

The NHS has enabled me to live my life in a compassionate and considered way, appreciating what I have and not taking life for granted. It has supported me to grow and develop, professionally and personally. It has given me the opportunity to diversify, taking opportunities to try different jobs, some more positive than others. I have gained new skills



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and qualifications which offered me the security of a permanent position. I have had flexibility to work around childcare and take a career break. I can't think of any other employer who could offer these opportunities. I am now nearing the end of my career in a vocation which I enjoy and am passionate about... I would say that's a very positive outcome.