



Caroline's story

Caroline has dedicated over 40 years' service to the NHS as a Registered Nurse, and now is continuing to do so through our Rapid Response. We really appreciate that Caroline is helping in the fight against the COVID-19 and utilising her great skillset to support her local NHS Trust and colleagues.

Thank you for supporting the NHS during this challenging time - you're truly an NHS Hero!

1. How long have you been nursing for?

I've been nursing for 44 years. I decided I wanted to be a nurse when I was 4 years old. I trained at Barts Health NHS Trust in the days when we wore starched caps and aprons. Although I've had quite a varied career the main bulk has been in Theatres/ITU and the Prison Service.

2. Why did you decide to join NHSP via Rapid Response?

I googled how to return to nursing, sent off an e-mail and was then advised that since I was still Registered that I could join NHS Professionals via the Rapid Response route.

3. How did it make you feel being able to join our Rapid Response to help the NHS?

I was really happy to be able to join you Rapid Response. It took a couple of attempts because my iPad is a gas version and a bit overwhelmed at the moment. As soon as I used my laptop the application process was very quick and easy. Your response was amazing; considering the numbers that must be involved it was incredible that in about 24 hours I was good to go. It made me feel valued and wanted.

4. What does it mean to you to support the NHS and your local community?

I was really pleased to be able to offer my knowledge and skills. I was feeling frustrated and a bit

guilty when I saw all the exhausted NHS staff on TV. I just wanted to get back to support them, even if it was only making beds, emptying bed pans or making the overworked staff a cup of tea or coffee.

5. How do you feel about returning to nursing after retiring?

I feel excited, but a bit apprehensive as well. I've been out of mainstream nursing for so long, I haven't worked on a ward regularly since I qualified. I have always worked in specialist areas; however, I have the skills to help and support.

6. What do you enjoy most about nursing?

I love the interaction with people. Knowing that I have made someone comfortable, eased their pain, made them smile is brilliant. This applies to patients and colleagues. As a Senior Manager I worked mainly with the staff and it was my job to help and appreciate them. I find people fascinating, they are so different, their needs are so varied. It is my job to treat people as individuals and identify their specific needs.

I love nursing, I can't imagine any other job that I would be as happy doing. I am so fortunate. This crisis has given me the opportunity to return to a job that I'm very good at (that's from my patients, not my over inflated ego!) and that I love.