

Pat's Story:

I'm more in control of my life

"I feel really valued working for NHSP and I know there is always someone there to help."

#MeetTheBank

Pat Graham is a staff nurse working for Chesterfield Royal Hospital. Pat has been working for NHS Professionals for over three years after taking early retirement. We met with Pat to talk about her experiences with NHS Professionals (NHSP).

Hi Pat, thank you for taking the time to chat to us today, you worked at Chesterfield Royal as a permanent member of staff for a while, what made you take early retirement?

I was working as a Sister in the ENT department at the Royal and had been there 10 years. My daughter, Deborah, had just had her first child and she lives in Newcastle so I wanted to be able to spend more time with them. I asked the Trust if I could reduce my hours, but because I was a band 6, it wasn't possible. I carried on working but soon after, my mum fell ill and went into hospital. I was finding it really difficult to carry on with the thirty hours I worked a week as well as trying to juggle various things happening in my personal life, so I decided to take early retirement.

How did you find the joining process?

When NHSP started managing the Chesterfield Bank, they came in and did a full induction period where we had an informal interview. They took our photos with the badges and just went over the whole process with us, it was really helpful, and the transition was very smooth.

Is there anything else in particular you like about working for NHS Professionals?

Lots! The online information and training they've got is fantastic. You can go online and do the study sessions and actually get a certificate for them. When I had to re-validate at the beginning of the year, I could use some of the sessions to go towards my prep requirements, so that was great. They also send you on the clinical sessions, so you can keep up to date through them.

NHSP also keep your DBS updated for you so you feel like they are looking after you. I feel really valued working for NHSP and I know there is always someone there to help.

It sounds like NHS Professionals offer a lot of support?

Yes, the local NHSP office are really helpful. If the office is closed, then I ring up head office and they're always really polite and friendly on the phone.

How do you find the shift booking system?

It's really easy to use, I log onto the system, My:Bank, which you can do on your phone and iPad. Being able to book shifts on the go has been so good for me as I can do it when I'm travelling to see my family. I just log in and look down the list of available shifts and book on to the ones I can do, it's made my life so much easier!

How far in advance do you book shifts?

Because I've worked in different departments and the staff have got to know me, they actually book me on. At the moment, I'm working for dermatology, so they'll book me on for a couple of months. If I wanted to though, I could just book shifts myself but it's worked out this way at the moment which is easier for me and I have guaranteed work.

Do you work in a variety of different areas?

Yes, with NHSP I've found there's so many departments at the Royal that I can go to. It's been really nice to learn new skills in a different environment. It keeps my mind active because with ENT, I know it like the back of my hand but when I move to a new area I have to think about what I'm doing more. NHSP has definitely boosted my confidence in working in different areas!

How has NHS Professionals helped you manage your personal life?

Shortly after I started working for NHSP, my other daughter fell pregnant and we found out the baby had a serious heart defect. Working flexibly meant I could support Lauren throughout the pregnancy and I wasn't tied in to a particular rota or number of hours. When the baby was born, I was able to go up to Newcastle and spend time with them. If I was working in a full-time job, I wouldn't have had the flexibility to spend quality time with my family and support them through a difficult period.



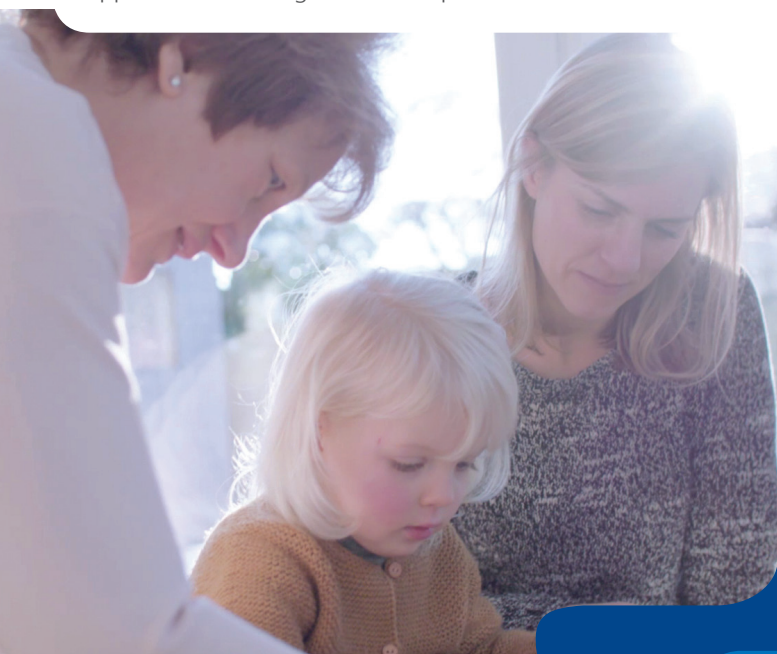
Would you recommend NHS Professionals to your colleagues?

Without a doubt! Working for NHSP, I feel like I'm more in control of my life. I can plan holidays when I want to go, I'm available if my family needs me and I can be there for them more. I've never been without work since I left my full-time position as there's always shifts available which enables me to maintain my career.

The other good thing about working for NHSP is that you can work in other areas. If I needed to be with my daughter and granddaughter in Newcastle for a length of time, I could work for NHSP there which would be great.

Would you work for an agency?

I don't think I'd feel as protected working for an agency as I do with NHSP. If I was working for an agency, I'd be more of a loan worker. To me, NHSP is more of a family environment and I've got to know the people in the NHSP office. With agency, I don't think you'd have that relationship; with NHSP, someone is always there to help.



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Meet Pat

Learn about her story

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