

## **My Career Journey – Claire Westmoreland**

I began my nursing career by completing a Nursing DipHE in Learning Disabilities (2003–2006). After qualifying, I moved to Qatar due to my husband's work, where I took on a role as a Learning Disability Teacher. Teaching children with diverse needs was incredibly rewarding, and I loved every moment of it.

Upon returning to England, I took my first community role as a Staff Nurse in School Nursing. This role allowed me to engage in public health initiatives, including immunisations, PSHE lessons, and well-being drop-ins. I later had the opportunity to complete the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) course in Health Visiting (2012–2014), which was both challenging and fulfilling. I then worked as a Health Visitor in Calderdale, supported by an incredible team.

At one point, I prioritised work-life balance by taking a two-year break from health visiting to work as a school nurse in a high school. This role strengthened my multi-agency working skills, collaborating with police, social care, counsellors, and pastoral teams. With the support of the head teacher, I completed the school nurse pathway of the SCPHN qualification.

I later returned to health visiting in another area of Calderdale, but my passion for safeguarding remained constant throughout my career. When the opportunity arose in 2022, I joined the Safeguarding Team as a Specialist Practitioner, allowing me to focus on protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. This led to my current role as the Named Nurse for Adults and Children at Risk, a position I am incredibly passionate about.

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything I do—it is more than just a job; it is a commitment to ensuring that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, is safe from harm and abuse. I take immense pride in supporting my colleagues, empowering them with the knowledge and confidence to safeguard those in their care.

Over the past 20 years, I have witnessed significant changes in the nursing profession. Despite these shifts, one constant remains—the unwavering dedication and expertise of nurses who deliver compassionate care every single day.

