

Helen McClelland



I am Heather McClelland and I am currently the Chief Nurse at St Gemma's Hospice in Leeds. I trained as a nurse in Belfast over 30 years ago and since then have worked in Emergency Care in Belfast, Oxford, Leeds and Calderdale & Huddersfield. Prior to my current role, I returned to Leeds as Head of Nursing for Workforce & Education, responsible for the huge nursing, midwifery and AHP workforce at Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

As Chief Nurse, I am responsible for the quality of care across both our In-Patient, Community and support services – therapies, family support, spiritual care and bereavement. It is a diverse, challenging and completely uplifting place to work, supporting the delivery of amazing care for patients and their loved ones in the last months of life and through their grief.

Nursing has provided me with a huge number of opportunities across my career, from studying specialist clinical and research programmes, being editor of a peer-reviewed international journal and working with emergency medical teams across the world following natural disasters. I completed an FNF Leadership Scholarship in 2015 which enabled me to focus on my leadership development for an extended period, to unpick and reconstruct me as a leader and as such, I know it has made me the leader I am today. I believe we continue to be a work in progress so I aim to encourage my team to constantly examine their own practice and skills in order to further enhance personal and professional development.