

## Harry

I work within the spiritual care team and wellbeing here at Wishaw along with several volunteers and we work collaboratively as a team and for us it's about being a presence within the hospital whereby we support patients, staff and relatives.

13 years ago I had a garage, I was working for myself, and I had the opportunity to study theology and divinity which meant a full career change for myself. Remembering that when I left school at 17 I had no qualifications whatsoever. So now here was me going to branch out now into a field where, at that point, I knew nothing about.

Someone coming into this profession, I would say, would need to be compassionate, empathetic and have a life experience. It can be as simple as a smile, it can be saying a prayer at the bedside. It can be holding a person's hand, who is either end of life or distressed. Or it could be simply just being with the person

The spiritual care and wellbeing team put all our efforts together and we produced this garden and it's where staff and patients and families can now come and have their own quiet reflective space in their time.

If someone had a told me 13 years ago that I would go from being a motor mechanic to being a hospital chaplain I would have perhaps thought 'impossible' and for me it is very very fulfilling.

I would say 'I'm living the dream'

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## Jamie

I'm a hospital porter driver. I could be based down at A&E. I could be on a hospital floor doing patient transfers to x-ray and also transferring them to clinics and various other things around the hospital

It's a great job to go for I would suggest. Yeah, get into working in hospitals and nursing homes, it's worth the experience. I went down to the Jobcentre to sign on and I seen it advertised, and I got an interview straight away on the day. I spoke to a gentleman who interviewed me and gave me the job the very next day. 22 years later here I am, still here

When I take the patients down to the departments it's nice to let them know about what's entailed in the x-rays, MRIs. It is also reassuring to let them know that everything is going to be fine, and that they know that when they come in there, they are nervous, and when they do come out, they do turn around and say, that it was actually not as bad as they thought it was going to be.

I get up in the morning, and to know that I'm coming in to help people that could be ill, that could be really ill, sick, poorly and to know that I am coming in here, helping people, watching people getting better, making them feel that wee bit happier knowing that we're there to look after them and help them.

You are made to feel as if you're part of a family in here because you're involved with patients. Patients get to know you after a few years and also they start calling you by your first name. They actually recognise you soon as you walk in the ward. It makes you feel wanted, it makes you feel part of the team.

It's really invigorating because you're involved in things. It's amazing, it gives you a buzz knowing that you're coming in to do this sort of job. It's really exciting to know that working in a hospital has got it's moments and you've got to enjoy it and take the good with the bad, and I absolutely enjoy doing what I do.

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## **Calum Campbell**

I'm the Chief Executive of NHS Lanarkshire and I am based at the board headquarters in Bothwell. I'm responsible for developing the strategy for the organisation. I report to the NHS board and overall the board is responsible for the performance of the organisation to deliver the health care of the people we serve.

On leaving school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do and I did a qualification in nursing, I became a registered general nurse and progressed on there to being a health visitor. During that time I combined it with a career as a professional football player. I have to say, to be quite honest, I was never particularly good. My career was cut short due to an injury which enabled me to go part-time to university, get my honours degree, get my masters degree in business and I have progressed on in the health service through a management line for the last number of years.

I think the biggest satisfaction I get, is trying to plan for the future, recognising some of the challenges around demographic changes rising out of the population. To make sure we can make a difference, not just today, but in the future and that's a satisfaction you get.

If you are interested in the Health Service, if your underpinning values are about care, and if you're really committed to patient safety there will be a career for you in the Health Service but we really need people with those basic values and interests.

The most important thing to me about my job is to try and make a difference. We have all got a vested interest in the Health Service. It is one of the things in the country we should be really proud of. We should be open, we should be honest, we should be transparent and I think the Health Service tries to do all those things. And having a job and having an organisation that tries to live to those values, practice those values and make such a difference to people's lives, whether it is at their birth or at the end of their life, you can't get anything more personally fulfilling.

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## **Pauline, Natalie & Louise**

I'm a clinical support worker and I work with Coatbridge district nurses in Coatbridge Health Centre. And we do dressings, blood pressures, bloods, we also have orders, stores, check the equipment is all maintained. We also assist the staff nurses and the district nurse sisters. We actually go out unsupervised.

We visit patients normally in the morning for diabetes, like checking their blood sugar and giving them insulin and then we see lots of different patients throughout the day for either dressings or palliative care and stuff for people that are housebound.

Since I've been a little girl I have always wanted to be a nurse, my mum is also a nurse, and it was always something that I've wanted to do. My plans over the next few years is to move into an advanced nurse practitioner role. I want to go back to university and eventually be a nurse prescriber and specialise in primary care nursing.

Have a look at the different areas of nursing and see what really holds their interest, what they are interested in. There is mental health, there's community, there's acute, there's health visiting there's all different types.

If you're considering a job in nursing, it's a certain type of person that can do that. You need to be caring and you can't take your job home with you. It's something that can really affect people, it's quite an emotional job.

It's the most rewarding job in the world. It has its challenges but it's got the best job satisfaction. Every day you're going to learn and every day you're going to meet new people.

Just being welcomed into somebody's home is really nice and working in small teams and part of a bigger team, everybody is here to help.

But every day is different, meeting different people. Knowing that you have went in and done a good job and you have walked away and the person's happy with the way you've treated them and they would like to see to see you again and be happy to see you again.

Knowing that I have made a difference to someone's day makes my job so worthwhile and it's a great job to do.

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