

# Celebrating the Year of the Nurse and Midwife

**SASH nurses and midwives tell us about their NHS journey and how they have made a difference in the NHS. With Priscilla Ateji**

## Why did you become a nurse?

I have always wanted to help and care for people in times of need. I also love the crisp, smart uniform.

## What was your first role?

I finished my degree in 2013 and started my career in Nigeria as a staff nurse on an acute ward in a private hospital. Later on, I worked as a school nurse before coming to the United Kingdom.

## Why did you join the NHS/your NHS journey

After working for some years in Nigeria, I wanted to do something exciting and different. The NHS appealed to me because it is one of the best healthcare systems in the world and offers a highly challenging environment as well as continued professional development. SASH, is also one of the best in the UK (with an outstanding CQC rating) so I was delighted to join in 2017. I started as a band 5 staff nurse on an elderly care ward. I worked with a lovely team and I was well supported as a new UK registered nurse. I believe the NHS is the best environment to use my skills to make a difference to the lives of others.

## What do you most enjoy about working in nursing/midwifery?

I feel extremely satisfied when I help my patients and their families through difficult times. I also love the varied roles / specialities in the nursing profession and the limitless opportunities available. I worked on the ward for about 18 months and then I was promoted to a band 6 role in the practice development team, which is involved in nursing training and education. As a registered nurse, you can choose to work in acute care, critical care, community care, palliative care, nursing management or nursing education / training. There is something for everyone.

## Where do you work now?

I work in the practice development team, (the best team ever!) as the medical devices trainer / clinical support nurse.

## Describe your proudest moment in your nursing/midwifery career thus far?

I have had so many proud moments over the years, the most recent was when our chief of nursing and midwifery, Jane Dickson selected my colleagues and I to attend the CNO for England's conference in Birmingham. I met Ruth May, chief nurse for England and other nursing leaders. I was delighted to share my experience as an overseas nurse to the UK and after listening to other amazing career stories, I was challenged to aspire to excellence.

