

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 Randolph Amornor

Why did you become a nurse?

Nursing was not my career of choice when growing up as a child, but I found myself in a nurse training institution during my late teens due to certain circumstances.

I got my 'heart of a carer' during my second clinical placement in the paediatric department. When I see beautiful smiles from children who had come in poorly and then get better, I feel happy seeing them get back to their playful selves. That was when I truly knew I was going to be a nurse.



What was your first role?

I have been a nurse since 2013 and after nursing for close to six years in the Bono region in Ghana, I decided to come to the UK to continue my career.

Why did you join the NHS/your NHS journey

I chose to work with the NHS because I felt it might be a safe environment to work.

My journey to the NHS took some preparation and about a year to complete. From changing my language of thinking (as English is not my first language) to reading laws and rules about nursing in the UK, the process was not easy but it was rewarding. After taking and passing the necessary exams in Ghana, I had to come to the UK for the final hurdle the OSCE which with the support of the SASH overseas nurse training program I passed.

Where do you work now?

Paediatrics in the emergency department at East Surrey Hospital.

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

One moment of significance in my nursing career was when I had the chance to attend the CNO conference and had breakfast with senior nursing leaders in the NHS including; Ruth May, chief nurse of NHS England.

My proudest moment was when I was approached by a woman in a market one day, whilst shopping in Ghana. This woman (the mother of a little girl that I cared for in hospital) had teary eyes and was full of gratitude that I had saved her daughter and she kept saying "may Lord bless you and may you have a long life". I got teary-eyed myself, as I remembered how long it took me to convince the child's father not to self-discharge and take their child to a herbalist. Their child had come in with cerebral malaria and was unconscious and needed resuscitation (which I was involved in) when she arrived at the hospital. After two days of being unconscious in the hospital, her father wanted her to be discharged, because he felt she would be treated best by a spiritual-herbalist (which was the norm of some people in the area, though I have never heard that it brought about a positive outcome). Several days after convincing the child's father, she got better and was discharged from hospital, but I was not on shift on the day. So when I met her mother with teary eyes, blessing me – I felt very thankful and proud that I am a nurse.

