**Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust**

**02. Jessica’s Story**

Prior to this nursing programme, going back in my education, I did GCSEs, A Levels. I studied for a degree in music. Went into teaching, and then did quite a few years within the ambulance service and then from there met my husband and then we had two children. Then I went back to teaching and was made redundant in 2016 just because I was in a little private school which, unfortunately, went into administration. I then tutored online during the COVID and then as we were coming out of COVID this amazing opportunity to join the programme arose and I applied.

The Open University and the Trust were absolutely brilliant. All my placements were within the South Devon Healthcare footprint so I knew that I wouldn't need to be travelling too far at any point in time. My husband, during my training, unfortunately, became poorly with long COVID. There were logistical problems, but the support was brilliant from the Trust but also from The Open University as well.

I qualified in November of 2024. I was very fortunate to go straight into my job with the Frailty Virtual Ward. I go to people's homes, which is a real privilege in itself. I then have time to get to know those people, get to know their families and their carers, get to know what they actually need to make a real difference to somebody who might not see anybody else that day.