**Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust**

**03. Leanne’s Story**

So I started on the same trajectory as anybody else. Went to primary school, secondary school, gained my GCSEs and my A levels. When I first started in healthcare I was working as a Healthcare Assistant. I gained my way up to being the Registered Manager of care homes, which was a job that I loved, but then I took a short break from that when my personal life changed and had my children.

The features of the OU course that attracted me was the fact that a lot of it's done via distance, so the theoretical learning I can do in my own time. I can structure that around my family life, around my working life, and that for me made it feasible. I've looked into other avenues of doing nursing before and I was never able to make those things come together in the way I needed. Logistically, it's much easier. It eliminates other costs. I don't have to travel to another city to go to a university and also all of our placements are done within the Trust.

I think nursing really aligns with who I am as a person. I started looking after people in my personal life when relatives became ill. I like to think that I'm a kind, compassionate person, and this is a job that you get to do that day in, day out and you get a lot back from it. Being a Registered Nurse will open a huge amount of doors for me. There's hundreds of areas that I could then go on to specialise in and it's just the start of a really exciting venture where sky's the limit, really, of what I can then go on to do.