Ann Jackson – Short Bio 2023

I started my nursing career in 1981, here at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, as a Nursing Assistant before starting RMN training and then working at the Brandon Unit 1985-1992 – which we ran as a modified therapeutic community. I was one of the very first Practice Development Nurses in the Trust and was lucky enough to be selected as an Associate Fellow with the RCN Institute, where I then worked after leaving the Trust in 1998. At the Royal College of Nursing, I led a national programme of practice development in mental health, working with NHS and private provider teams as an external facilitator to integrate best contemporary mental health nursing evidence and policy. With staff and members, I set up the RCN’s Women’s Mental Health Group and worked at the Department of Health supporting the development of policy for women in the criminal justice system. In 2009 I returned to Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (as part of a professional sabbatical) to develop a Women’s Managed Network across the local LLR health and third sector. I also became involved as a Trustee and Chair of Women’s Aid in Leicestershire for 4 years. From February 2012, I held the post of Director of Nursing at St. Andrew’s Healthcare, the largest UK charitable provider of specialist mental health services. In 2015, I accepted a year’s interim post of Deputy Director of Nursing for NHS England (Central Midlands).

From 2016, as an Independent and Associate Consultant, I have been involved in designing and delivering bespoke workshops, learning sets and programmes to develop wholehearted leadership skills and action-oriented projects. In 2019, I led the Trust suicide prevention work – which was the last working role of my 42-year career in mental health.

For the last year, I have been making an attempt is to embrace ‘retirement’ as an adventure and a time to commit to family and friendships. However, I like to keep a bit involved in the areas I really care about and have recently been appointed as a Specialist Advisor to New Dawn, New Day. I primarily work now as a Consultant Facilitator on nursing leadership programmes and professional mentorship. I have a great interest in the support that is needed to maintain mental health wellbeing.

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