

Karen Tanner

Associate Director Patient Care and AHP Lead for NHS South West

Biography

1983

Basic Grade rotation Ealing Hospital

Karen's first role following training at Dorset House was a rotation including Orthopaedics, Older Adults, General Medical and Neurology. She later took on a Senior I Splinting and Rheumatology post.

1986

Senior II Chippenham Community Hospital

Wanting a less specialist role following marriage and a move to Wiltshire, Karen joined Chippenham Community Hospital and developed a special interest in working with older adults with complex needs.

1986

Head OT Melksham Community Hospital

This post involved clinical responsibilities for two admission wards and one rehabilitation ward for older adults, as well as managerial/leadership responsibilities for OT services in a number of small Community Hospitals. It was a challenging mix of clinical caseload, operational management and working to develop OT services strategically.

1992

Head OT Royal United Hospital, Bath

Following a period working as Senior I Older Adults at Poole General Hospital, in which she continued part-time after the birth of her first son, Karen took on the Head OT role as a job share. After six years in the role Karen decided to relinquish any dedicated clinical case load and focus on operational management and service development.

1999

Clinical Specialist Older People's Team, South West Regional Office

While continuing to work part-time at Bath, Karen was invited on secondment to the South West Regional Office. Her task was initially to assess the state of readiness for the National Service Framework for Older People and subsequently support and performance manage its implementation. The post was a stepping-stone into a more strategic role with a broader agenda. At the end of the first year, Karen was asked to extend the secondment on a full-time basis.

2002

Policy Lead Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority

By March 2002, the Regional Offices had been closed and the first wave of Strategic Health Authorities had been formed. Karen applied for the Policy Lead role within Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA while also undertaking additional projects. This was followed by a six-month secondment to the Department of Health to undertake a national review of progress on implementing the National Service for Older People across England, formally reporting to the Department of Health and the National Clinical Director for Older People.

2005

Associate Director of Performance Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority

The main responsibilities in this role were to ensure delivery of key operational standards for a local

health community. Karen acted as Health Specialist for the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) to assist in the development and piloting of a cross-sector top management team improvement programme.

2007

Associate Director of Patient Care South West Strategic Health Authority

Karen was appointed to her current post following a short secondment to Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust. Her team manages all clinical policy areas. She is also the Allied Health Professions Lead for the South West, forming part of the Strategic Health Authority AHP Leads group which meets regularly with the Chief Health Professions Officer and team. The group aims to inform and influence policy development such as the Next Stage Review. In February 2008 the first AHP Conference for the South West was held; this will be an annual event.