

Will Oliver

Senior Education and Contracting Manager, National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare, NHS Wales

Biography

Looking back on his years working in the Health Sector, Will is philosophical about the direction his career took and emphasises how important it is to realise there is no direct route to progress through the Career Framework level system. He never imagined that he would be doing the job he currently does when he originally trained to be a Physiotherapist in 1984, however there were a number of twists and turns along the way to bring him here.

He began his career studying a degree in Applied Biological Sciences at Bristol Polytechnic and quickly realised that spending his working life in a laboratory was not going to be for him because he wanted to work with people. A family friend suggested he try Physiotherapy and he was able to switch degrees, ultimately graduating in 1987.

His entry into the healthcare community was secured at Cardiff Royal Infirmary in a Junior Rotation role he decided to move into teaching and set his sights on becoming a Physiotherapy Lecturer.

Over the next few years he progressed to Professional Advisor on a variety of Allied Health Profession matters, to Senior Workforce Modernisation Manager for the newly formed NHS Wales Workforce Development Directorate. During his time in this post he was instrumental in contributing to the modernisation and development of a new integrated workforce planning system in Wales.

Now, over 20 years since he first entered the Health Sector, he is the Senior Education and Contracting Manager, advising the Welsh Assembly on workforce and education commissioning, and assisting with the development and education of support workers.