

DUNCAN BURTON - HEAD OF NURSING

Duncan Burton - (Head of Nursing for the medicine board - UCLH)

"I'm Duncan Burton I'm the head of nursing for the medicine board at UCLH. Essentially my role is, I'm the professional lead for approximately six hundred nurses. The meeting today is really an opportunity for nurses and midwives across the whole of the trust working in varying different roles to get together and discuss certain topics. We have nurses represented from every clinical area within the trust. Ward sisters for example we have practice facilitators who work training staff. Nurse consultants, clinical nurse specialists - you have heads of nursing and Matrons in the meeting which is chaired by the chief nurse. One of the things I was presenting was our score cards, performance score cards for how we measure the effectiveness of the care that we're giving. My sense of satisfaction and I think this is the thing that I've found throughout my career is that when I was a staff nurse in a ward area I got that sense of satisfaction on a one to one basis. Now, for me, and this is why I've moved in to this role, it's about influencing care over a much greater population of people. It's about looking at the long term improvements that can be made developing people and developing individuals so you can get a satisfaction from doing that. I don't think it was part of my master plan to be where I am now. It's evolved over time. As I've moved through my career I've had the ability to move to different areas so whether I started off in a respiratory ward and then moved to neurology was partly due down to my desire to learn something different. To work in a different area but also in terms of career opportunity, so when an opportunity came up for me for promotion, therefore I moved and took that opportunity I think the good thing about nursing is that there are transferable skills though even though you're in one specialty you gain skills in that area be they leadership skills, management skills, business skills, your clinical skills that you can then transfer in to - to other areas."