

Celebrating the Women of MTW

Chris White – devoted Mum and Medical Education Manager, a tale of support and encouragement

Chris and her brother were born in North London and attended the local comprehensive school. With her Dad in the printing business and her Mum a seamstress, Chris really had no idea what she wanted to do



when she left. She went straight into working for the Ministry of Defence in a typing pool and recalls using heavy manual typewriters – it wasn't long before she was promoted to Deputy Manager of the typing pool. She was then given an opportunity to become the secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence which was an enjoyable and demanding role. At that time Chris married and moved on to work for a Nuclear Scientist still within the MOD.

It wasn't long before her family came along with a daughter first followed by a son two years later and Chris became a stay at home Mum. Her daughter has special needs and attended a Barnardo's nursery in Tunbridge Wells which catered for her needs. Chris threw herself into supporting other parents and fundraising for the nursery which continued when her daughter moved to a local primary school. She even set up workshops, working closely with a

Speech and Language Therapy Unit, to provide support to other parents. With both children in school, Chris continued to provide support to both schools and even found the energy to set up her own secretarial business!

In 2002 when her daughter went away to secondary school, Chris decided it was time to go back to work. She was attracted by a part time job working in education in the Post Graduate Centre at the Kent & Sussex Hospital. Starting in a band 3 data input role, she was promoted within the Department and then had the opportunity to apply for the Manager role. In 2011 her role changed to Strategic Medical Education Manager which meant bringing Medical Education together across the Trust.

- Worked for the Secretary of State for Defence
- Devoted Mum of two
- Supporter and fundraiser at Barnardo's nursery
- Ran her own secretarial business
- Strategic Medical Education Manager bringing medical education together across the Trust

Working in that role for the past 7 years Chris still loves her job – with no two days being the same. She thoroughly enjoys supporting the trainees and seeing the F1s progress and not forgetting her team which she loves to support and develop. One of her staff loved the team so much she left and came back again! Chris has come across some wonderful dedicated people who have supported her both personally and at work. Developing her skills and learning through work, her advice to others is to “Network – look for opportunities to develop yourself, these may be small things but they can all add up and might give some ideas for direction”. Chris says she has had an inspirational manager who was very dedicated to the role who helped her develop and she is still in touch with them now.

Chris is really proud of her children –her daughter has a job in Tesco and undertakes public speaking on behalf of charities and her son has a degree in Operational Research. With her children as role models, there are many things she has achieved, not least bringing the teams together across Medical Education Departments at the Trust. Chris has had a personal trainer for the last 2 and a half years who has helped her lose and maintain weight and provides an opportunity to de-stress after a long day in the office.