

Celebrating the Women of MTW

Preeya Bailie – a story of taking opportunities and hard work!



Having completed a degree in Economics and Sociology in Zimbabwe, Preeya really wanted to travel. It just so happened that England offered a 2 year working holiday visa so, armed with an open return ticket and £300 from her Dad, she came to the UK in 2004. Arriving on a Sunday, she had a job interview with Hounslow Council for a data entry role on the Thursday and started work the very next day!

The job was based in Occupational Health where Preeya saw the range of equipment that is given to people of all ages and became involved with disability grants to make adaptations to homes. Such assistance doesn't exist in Zimbabwe with help being sought from charities or family so this really peaked her interest in health care. After 3 months she became permanent and really got involved in the team by starting to look at the processes and began to streamline things.

Moving on to be a Business Manager working with the Housing Department, Preeya's work involved asylum seekers. And that's where her procurement journey began - looking at multiple occupancy accommodation and supporting people going into housing.

Then she applied to Surrey County Council and was seconded into local Government to undertake some policy work on future social care and looking at pricing models for care of the elderly in social care. Preeya describes this roles as being both surreal and amazing!

Next Preeya move to Medway Council as a Performance and Service Delivery Manager looking at change with procurement in her remit. She set up a procurement team and had free reign to take things forward at a time when lots of innovation was encouraged and the boundaries of procurement were really pushed. Preeya led on residential homes being outsourced and the local Learning Disability Day Centre (the only one in the area) increasing its hours due to being such a valued service. She led on the consultation with the parents of vulnerable people which she really enjoyed.

From Medway Council, Preeya moved to the London Procurement Partnership based at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital. Finding it a big change moving into the NHS, she soon realised that it was about making a difference. Everyone is a customer of the NHS and celebrating 70 years of service this year, she feels it is our duty to make a difference to everyone. In the Hub, Preeya led a work stream on temporary staffing which required close working with NHS Improvements.

- Data Entry Clerk
- Business Manager
- Performance and Service Delivery Manager
- Associate Director of Procurement
- Chief Procurement Officer

In 2016, Preeya became the Associate Director of Procurement at MTW. Whilst here she says her biggest achievement was some work she completed with the Orthopaedic team. The trust had undertaken a tender but she wasn't happy with the contract and decided to challenge this. In order to do this she worked very closely with the Surgeons, even watching hip and knee replacements to understand more, and she was able to save over £900,000 on the contract price. She negotiated the same for Medway too!

Keen to progress and get involved with new things, Preeya is leaving us to become the Chief Procurement Officer at NHS Improvements, leading all procurement for England. She recognises it being an opportunity to really shape the landscape for procurement with lots of change that is happening nationally.

Preeya says “If you’re willing to work hard and put yourself forward, sometimes take risks, put yourself in front of people, dream big and think big, good things will happen”.

When working in her first job in Hounslow, Preeya also had an evening and weekend job in Waitrose. She worked really hard at both jobs and living carefully from her Waitrose salary she was able to save enough for a deposit and bought a maisonette in just 18 months!

During her career, Preeya has met and married her husband and has a young son. She loves to take her son swimming and having honeymooned in China, Preeya has been learning Chinese for about a year and a half.

“Put yourself out there – be present at the table – invite yourself and get involved” is advice Preeya would give to people.

A poem entitled “My Deepest Fear” by Marianne Williamson provides Preeya with inspiration and motivation:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

*We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous?
Actually, who are you not to be?*

You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people will not feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone and as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others