

Stephanie Fricker

In the run up to International Nurses' Day (12th May), we speak to one of our own special nurses – Community Paediatric Nurse Stephanie Fricker. Stephanie tells us about her recent Queen's Nurse Award; what it was like to be honoured with a prestigious accolade and what the title means to her and our team of nurses here at the Trust.

What is the Queen's Nurse award?

The title is awarded by community nursing charity The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) and it indicates a commitment to high standards of patient care, learning and leadership.

Why were you awarded the title?

I was given the title of Queen's Nurse for my contribution to community nursing and for my development of nurse-led clinics which has helped to improve the overall patient experience.

Can you tell us more about your role?

I'm a Community Paediatric Nurse that works with children of all ages suffering from many different conditions, including autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and sleep issues.

I (and my colleagues) play a key role in assessing children's needs and, because of the type of patient we see, that assessment can take place in a variety of settings, such as clinics in the community, families homes and hospitals – whatever is most comfortable for the child.

What does it mean to receive the Queen's Nurse award?

It's a huge honour to receive the title of Queen's Nurse. The role of Community Paediatric Nurse is a new post for me so to be recognised for my work is really rewarding. It also opens up a network of nurses nationally that I can share ideas with.

This award is also recognition of the commitment to community nursing at the Trust and the hard work of all children's nurses.

I wouldn't be able to do my job without the support of my colleagues – so this award is as much for them as it is for me.

Do you think nurses need to be recognised more?

I think it's important that nurses are recognised for their contribution to the NHS. The Queen's Nurse award demonstrates that we do make a difference.

This title as well as International Nurses Day, which is celebrated around the world on 12 May, do help to mark the contributions nurses make to society – it would be nice to see the latter publicised even more as sometimes people are unaware about specialist nurses and the work we do.

Now you're the 'Queen's Nurse' – what's next for you?

I will be using this title to help the Trust further develop our children's services. We were rated as 'outstanding' by an independent report, but I want to see us improve further – so we can confidently say that we offer one of the country's best, most flexible service for children and their families.

Stephanie Fricker is a Community Paediatric Nurse at Weston Area Health NHS Trust.

"We're so proud of Stephanie being recognised with the title of Queen's Nurse.

"Our Paediatric nurses make a huge difference to the families they work with and this award reflects a commitment to the values of community nursing, and once again illustrates the excellent patient care that our brilliant team of nurses deliver every day." -

Helen Richardson, Director of Nursing at Weston Area Health NHS Trust

"Congratulations are due to Stephanie for her success. Community nurses are expert professionals who make a vital contribution to patient health and wellbeing." - Dr Crystal

Oldman, Chief Executive of the QNI