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When at school, my academic focus was maths, physics, engineering and tech drawing, which was going to set me for a career in the building industry. However, it didn't quite work out like that. After a year studying BSc Building Science, I wasn't asked back, so I took a 'gap year' of being on the dole stumbling into the idea of being a nurse. I knew quite a few people who worked at Ladysbridge Hospital, Banff where I grew up, and at St Josephs, Rosewell, who really enjoyed their work, so thought "*och why not*".

Whilst waiting to start my training, I took up a temp post as a Porter at the old Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. It was the best job ever, lots of patient and people contact. Then August 1990 I started training at St Josephs, qualifying October 1993 taking up an initial post there until joining the William Fraser Centre in Edinburgh in November 1994. This was super exciting: a purpose-built assessment and treatment service. After that I took up the Acute Hospital Liaison Nurse post – again super exciting as only post of its kind in the UK.

Then I was jammy enough to get a secondment to Scottish Government for a couple days a week supporting the Nursing Officer, which was then followed by secondment to Napier to work on the AWI Act; that was a torturous piece of work! Another secondment to Leadership in Compassionate Care project, then another as Patient Experience Service Improvement Manager, and slowly drifting from LD by using transferable skills, then to a totally out the box secondment to Scottish Government again as Programme Manager within Quality Efficiency Support Team, working on cancer pathways and waiting times. After a few years I then realised I really needed to get back to LD nursing proper, so I successfully secured the Lead Nurse post in Fife, then shortly afterwards rejoined NHS Lothian as Clinical Nurse Manager. And here I am, and not sure what's next, but always looking out for the next option!