



Breast cancer patient qualifies as a nurse whilst undergoing cancer treatment

A Peterborough City Hospital nurse, who successfully completed her nursing degree apprenticeship despite battling breast cancer, has been nominated for a national Our Health Heroes breakthrough apprentice of the year award.

When Sharon Maywood received the devastating news that she had been diagnosed with breast cancer, she was two years shy of completing a degree apprenticeship course and fulfilling a heartfelt ambition of becoming a gastroenterology nurse.

Undeterred, Sharon took the brave decision to carry on with her studies, refusing to take a single day off, despite undergoing intensive cancer treatment. Against all the odds, Sharon qualified as a nurse earlier this year with an impressive pass mark of 81%.

The support that Sharon received from Anglia Ruskin University (her training provider) and North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust (the funding employer) were crucial to getting her through the toughest of times and her colleagues on Ward A10 couldn't be prouder.

“Sharon could always be relied upon to go above and beyond - fill staffing gaps when she could to safely manage a team of patients under supervision and guidance. On days where we were short, she would always volunteer to take a team to alleviate pressures on the rest of the team,” said Tanya Sudbury, A10 Ward Deputy Sister supervisor and assessor.

“A credit to the ward. Sharon always acts as a professional role model. She is well motivated and adaptable and seeks out any areas she feels she requires any further learning,” added Rachel Dix, Ward Manager A10.

Sharon’s dogged determination in the face of adversity is an inspiration to us all, not least to the next generation of would-be degree nurse apprentices, who in years to come will look up to Sharon as a role model says Vanessa Waller, Associate Professor of Nursing at Anglia Ruskin University, who had the pleasure of teaching Sharon during her degree apprenticeship.

Unsurprisingly, Jo Bennis, Chief Nurse for North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, (the NHS trust that runs Peterborough City Hospital), is strongly backing Sharon for the award and comments: “I am incredibly proud of Sharon for everything that she has achieved over the last few years. She has grabbed every opportunity and despite personal illness, has continued to juggle her studies and work and achieve her qualifications. She is a fantastic role model for anyone considering a career in nursing. I am so pleased that she has been nominated for this award and we will all be rooting for her on the night.”

[Skills for Health's](#) Our Health Heroes Awards 2022 celebrates remarkable individuals in our health and social care sector. The breakthrough apprentice of the year category is sponsored by UNISON. To cast your vote for Sharon before 4th February visit:

<https://bit.ly/3pYRQek>

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