

Catherine Jack

I qualified as a registered general nurse in Edinburgh in May 1994 having travelled North from Cambridgeshire to complete my training at the Western General Hospital. I transferred from working in acute medicine to theatres in early 1997 working in the trauma and CEPOD theatres at the old Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and moving to Dunfermline in November 1998 to Queen Margaret Hospital (QMH). At this time Queen Margaret was the acute hospital for Fife covering a wide range of specialties. In January 2012 after a service redesign QMH became the Day Surgery unit, initially with four theatres and gradually increasing back to eight. In June 2014 I graduated with a BSc in Nursing from Dundee University and in December 2014 became Senior Charge Nurse of Day Surgery Theatres at QMH. I am passionate about driving day surgery services forward in Fife and became a member of BADS council in September 2020.

Abstract

An overview of how things looked at QMH pre COVID with detail on theatres and staffing and theatre activity. Discussion of the initial lockdown, how it affected our provision of day surgery services as well as how staff were impacted by all the changes.

A description of our return to day surgery in July 2020, how that looked and how we steadily and consistently managed to get close to our normal levels of activity before moving on to the impact of the second surge. An insight into the benefits of being a stand alone unit with an ability to follow a green pathway and the potential for transfer of activity from our acute site.

The importance of board level support to improve day surgery will be addressed, moving on to a conclusion that considers the impact on staff during the pandemic and the importance of looking after staff well being.