

Empowering nurses at every stage of their journey

By Helen Patterson, Lead for Clinical Excellence

International Nurses Day is a moment to celebrate not just the incredible work nurses do, but the people and structures that make great nursing possible. This year's theme 'empowerment' feels especially relevant, because empowering nurses at every stage of their career is a key focus for our teams.

From the moment a student nurse steps onto a ward, they are supported by our **Practice Educator Team**, which includes dedicated practice assessors who guide, coach and assess learners as they develop their clinical confidence. Working closely alongside students in practice, they facilitate reflective

learning, support the completion of practice assessments, and act as a consistent, familiar face during what can be an overwhelming time. This team bridges the gap between education and practice, ensuring that every student feels fully equipped.

As newly qualified nurses take their first steps into independent practice, our **Preceptorship Programme** provides a structured period of support, a safe space to consolidate learning, ask questions, and grow into the role with confidence. Through regular one-to-one meetings, structured reflection and peer support, preceptees are helped to translate their training into assured, compassionate practice.

For those looking to build upon their clinical expertise, our **Clinical Skills Team** offers ongoing education and training throughout a nurse's career, from practical procedure workshops to scenario-based simulation, keeping knowledge up-to-date and practice safe.

Alongside this, **Advanced Clinical Practitioners** play a vital role in modelling advanced practice and supporting clinical development. Through clinical supervision, specialist expertise, and visible leadership, they demonstrate the breadth of opportunity available within advanced and leadership pathways, helping to shape and inspire future career progression.

Empowering nurses

“Whether you're a student on your first placement or an experienced nurse, our teams are here for you, because true empowerment means having the right support at every stage of your career.”

Helen Patterson,
Lead for Clinical Excellence

INTERNATIONAL
Nurses Day 2026

OUR NURSES
OUR FUTURE



At the most senior levels of clinical practice, **Consultant Nurses** represent one of the most advanced clinical career destinations within nursing, combining expert practice, leadership, education, and service development to influence care at system level and shape the future of the profession.

Together, these roles create a clear and continuous pathway of support, from student nurse to experienced practitioner and beyond.

Empowerment is not a single moment, it's a culture. And it is built through consistent investment in people, development, and progression at every stage of the nursing journey.