

QN Annual Meeting  
28 March 2022

## 'My proudest moment in nursing in the last year'

'We are the Health Protection Team in Public Health Wales. Infectious disease is our bread and butter, but a pandemic is a once in a generation challenge of gigantic proportion.

The last year has been challenging for everyone. I was worried that my biggest professional challenge would be to lead a team of new health protection nurses in our response to the pandemic and to face the challenge head-on. We recruited inexperienced nurses to join our small existing group of experienced staff.

I'll be honest, I wasn't sure how it'd pan out. How can a team of new health protection nurses tackle a pandemic? However, I rapidly realised my concerns were unfounded. This new team gelled in a way I never expected, we've developed, grown, succeeded and delivered. It re-enforced my confidence in the nursing profession and opened my eyes to what nurses are capable of.

We've become a force to be reckoned with and my team is prepared for whatever the future of infectious diseases throws at us, even another pandemic.

My proudest moment in nursing over the last year is, without doubt, the honour of leading my new team in tackling the pandemic. They have made me proud.'

Gary Porter-Jones, Queen's Nurse