

MATTHEW CHAPMAN
HEAD OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
MEDWAY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



CAREER STORY

I left school following the final year of O'Level examinations in 1987 (replaced with GCSEs). I actually did want to be an accountant, or probably more, that I wanted to work with numbers, as at school I always enjoyed Maths and problem solving; that has continued to this day.

I received a placement on the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) with Maidstone Health Authority. This gave me an introduction to the office environment, some experience in Management Accounts as well as day release at the local college to study for a BTEC qualification. After a year I was offered a permanent role and became employed fully by the NHS. At this point my interest in Finance really took off.

Over the years, I have worked predominantly in Management Accounts. This meant meeting with clinicians, managers and trainees to discuss budget management and finances in general. There were a lot of changes in the NHS as health authorities disbanded and commissioning and providing of healthcare came into place. I have always worked on the provider side in Acute and Mental Health Trusts.

I continued with my studies and I gained part-qualified status, although circumstances would sometimes mean I could not continue to study around work life. I left the NHS for a year to work with a private company providing investment and asset management software, this gave me a reset and different kind of career. However I soon realised I preferred NHS Finance, so I returned to a planning role within a Mental Health Trust. I then took up my studies again with a new invigorated determination to qualify as an accountant

So, here I am, a Chartered Management Accountant in the role of Head of Financial Management with a range of valuable skills and experience as well as knowledge and understanding of all aspects of finance to improve patient care.

I feel I have a drive to lead, enjoy motivating and setting a clear direction. From the roles I have fulfilled, I have demonstrated my ability to bring a team together, improve collaboration and encourage development. I have focused on interacting with a variety of people, and turning those interactions into positive working relationships.

I enjoy learning from others and am always keen to discuss projects or work to increase my knowledge and enable me to better assist others. Communication for me is key and I regularly interact with the team to ensure they are on board with tasks and workload, as well as ensuring any issues are escalated swiftly to be addressed, along with ideas for improvement being nurtured

I am very grateful to the NHS for enabling me to achieve some of my life goals as well as making me feel I am part of the big team. My NHS colleagues are very compassionate about delivering the best service to all patients. If you ever find yourself walking in a hospital corridor, just take a moment and observe how the clinicians and support staff show genuine care.

The future for me will hopefully be to see my career conclude in an NHS finance role. I feel there is a whole lot more work to be done to improve the financial position of the Trust I work for; that is my focus; following that, a well-deserved retirement, hopefully with lots of sunshine.

Matthew Chapman ACMA, CGMA