

JOSH SKINNER
HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES (ACTING)
NORTH BRISTOL NHS TRUST

ABOUT ME

I'm Josh Skinner and I am currently acting up into the role of Head of Financial Services at North Bristol Trust. My permanent role is as Capital Finance Business Partner and I have been acting up temporarily for the last three and a half months. I graduated from the University of Bristol with a degree in Maths in 2015 and joined the NHS in 2018 after a few years of working various jobs and travelling.

MY ROLE

As Head of Financial Services, I lead a team of around 20 people working in a range of teams and covering a variety of different areas. These cover:

- Accounts Payable
- Credit Control
- Private and Overseas Patients
- Capital
- Trust Charity

Within my substantive role, I work closely with the different members of the Trust's Capital Planning Group, as well as the individual project managers to help support capital projects all the way through planning to final delivery, as well as managing the overall capital plan of the Trust. This involves supporting on business cases, forecasting costs throughout the year, managing risk around year end and identifying mitigations as required, as well as helping developing plans for future years.

CAREER PATH/CAREER JOURNEY

My first experience of both Finance and the NHS came when I joined the Graduate Management Training Scheme in September 2018. I split my two and half years on the scheme between a community health provider and an acute Trust, with time mostly spend working across Financial Management and Financial Services. The scheme was a brilliant opportunity to work across different teams, meet and work closely with senior leaders, and experience working in different sectors, all while studying to complete my CIPFA qualification.

After finishing the scheme I moved to North Bristol Trust in May 2021, taking on the role of Divisional Finance Manager for the Core Clinical Services division, covering areas such as Pathology, Imaging and Pharmacy. It was a great role and gave me the chance to work with completely different specialties, all facing their own individual challenges.

After just over a year in this job, I took on a new role as the Trust's Capital Finance Business Partner. This was a new role in the Trust and I had an opportunity to work with a teams across the organisation in order to manage the in year Capital Programme and plan for future years. One highlight has been the opportunity to work closely on the delivery of a new Surgical Centre that Trust received national funding to deliver. In addition to working closely with teams across the Trust, I've also had the opportunity to work with system partners. As North Bristol Trust and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston have now formed a Hospital Group I've had the opportunity to be involved in conversations looking to align processes and understand the pressures each organisation faces. I've also had the opportunity be involved in the Imaging and Pathology Networks that have been created to bring in digital solutions across these two areas in the wider region.

My current role acting up as Head of Financial Services has given me the opportunity to get involved in areas of work I've previously not experienced, including the Trust's charity, while remaining closely involved in delivery of the Trust's capital plan. I've been filling this post for the last three months and have really enjoyed the opportunity the variety it has brought and the chance to work with the wider Financial Services team.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Outside of work I have an 18 month old daughter who tends to keep me fairly busy and helps me to switch off from work! In life before fatherhood I played rugby three times a week, but the combination of getting older and more sleepless nights mean I've now moved my time to sports that tend to be a bit kinder to the body and I enjoying running a few times a week.