

**HEATHER FARRINGTON**  
**HEAD OF FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONTRACTS**  
**WARRINGTON AND HALTON TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

## CAREER PATH

### Financial Planning Accountant (Jan 2018 – May 2023)

My first role at WHH was the Financial Planning Accountant starting in January 2018. I had previously worked at another Trust as an Income Accountant which is where I qualified with ACCA, and this role was the perfect next step for me.

I was responsible for reporting the month end income position and forecast, engaging with commissioners at contract meetings and supporting the annual planning process.

During my time in this role I interviewed for an internal promotion and although I was unsuccessful, I received lots of support from my line manager who gave me additional duties in other areas of Finance to gain experience, such as Charitable Funds and Salary Sacrifice, provided shadowing opportunities at Committees, and put me in touch with a mentor who was a CFO at another Trust.

### Head of Financial Planning (May 2023 – June 2024)

An opening for the role of Head of Financial Planning was made available for a second time and having received support from my line manager following the previous interview I felt I was much more prepared due to the support I had received. I was successful in the interview and was appointed in May 2023.

In this role not only was I leading a larger team (Income and Costing) I was also part of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) which provides another level of support and development. The SLT meet weekly to discuss any issues, share best practice and celebrate successes.

I was given the opportunity to take part in the Advanced Change Leadership Programme which took place on 5 days over several months. I learnt some valuable skills which I have been able to put into practice over the last couple of years.

In December 2023 I was able to attend the HFMA Conference for 3 days (2 nights) which was a fantastic opportunity to network and meet colleagues from across the country.

### Head of Financial Planning and Contracts (June 2024 - Present)

Following the departure of another member of the Senior Team, it was decided that the structure of the Senior Team needed to be updated and Contracts was added to my portfolio. I had some previous experience in contracts at another Trust, however this provided a new learning opportunity for me as there had been changes since I was last involved in contracts, such as the introduction of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR).

This role has proved challenging at times, with lots of uncertainty around the finance regime and particularly Elective Recovery Funding (ERF). However, I am always able to call upon my line manager and peers for advice and support.