## **Project Manager**

## Kay Wilkes

Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW)

I lead and manage projects of significant size, complexity, and risk. I ensure they are completed within scope, on time and within budget whilst meeting stakeholder expectations.

At the moment, I'm working on programmes around a large IT system that records and manages patient interactions and treatments within hospitals and care settings. The system's called the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS). We're integrating the

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES



Cardiff and Vale Health Board Patient Administrative System into the national WPAS to create a single view, which will benefit patients and healthcare staff across Wales.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of working in the NHS is the positive impact my role and my team's role has on patient care. Working on the implementation of projects that improve processes and technologies within NHS Wales is immensely rewarding. I enjoy the collaborative nature of working on a project that involves individuals from different areas and backgrounds coming together to work towards a common goal. Additionally, working on a variety of projects, each with its own objectives, requirements, and challenges helps to keep the role exciting and enables me to develop my skills as a project manager.

After graduating from university, my first role was as an administrator in Legal and General followed by a number of fixed term contracts in Cardiff University. Back then, I was quite shy, and never envisioned that I would be capable of leading teams and confidently delivering presentations. However, it didn't take long for me to discover my strengths were in organising, planning and problem solving.

I found myself volunteering for side projects and relished the challenges they presented. This led me to pursue project management qualifications to develop my skills. I eventually got my big break as a project manager at Cardiff University and spent six years in the role before moving to the NHS in 2019. I've been a project manager for 10 years and still love it! Joining the profession has been an incredibly fulfilling journey for me. The experiences I gained along the way not only gave me the confidence boost I needed, but also prepared me for my move to the NHS.



I am forever grateful to live in a country where we have free healthcare, and therefore I will never take this for granted. I am proud to work for an organisation with so many inspiring people who put patients at the centre of everything they do. The NHS' tireless work during the COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted for everyone how incredible the NHS is.