

# Derbyshire General Practice Champions

## Dr Gail Walton

**GP partner**

**Executive Director [Derby and Derbyshire LMC](#)**

**GP Advisor with [GP Task Force, Derbyshire](#)**

**RCGP Supporting Practices Programme GP Advisor**

**GP appraiser and locality lead for appraisal**

**[GP-S Mentor](#)**



### **Career Journey:**

I trained in Bristol but came to Derby to do hospital jobs and arranged the majority of my GP training myself (in amongst that being about 18 months of obs and gynae) after which I joined the VTS for paediatrics and a year as a trainee in Heanor.

I went straight into partnership in 1988 and have been there ever since other than 3 maternity leaves and a 6 month gap when we moved away with my husband's job.

In the early days I had little involvement with work outside the partnership on a regular basis - just getting to grips with the day job was sufficient!

Gradual involvement through local initiatives like the setting up of an out of hours co-operative and a workstream at PBC ("Practice Based Commissioning") level to align our care homes with individual practices sparked my interest in developing "the other stuff", which as a GP can be as much or as little as you like and leads to me still being fascinated by the business side of practice. Similarly, developing a particular clinical interest either in the practice setting or without (I was a GPSI in Substance Misuse for 8 years) is all possible.

in Spring 2019 I intend to step back from partnership, stay at my existing practice as a salaried GP, hopefully on the retainer scheme – the idea being that it gives me even more flexibility to pursue my other roles.

### **Best things about my roles:**

The flexibility of general practice was a big draw for me, much as I liked obs and gynae, as is the ability to add things in as time and family commitments change.

New things always come along that need a clinician or clinical input, so for example all GP appraisers in Derbyshire are working GPs.

Supporting the existing workforce whether through appraisal, mentoring or in more practical ways eg. through Derbyshire LMC's GP Task Force (with our projects to support and stabilise Derbyshire general practice) or the RCGP Supporting Practices programme - it's great when you can pass on ideas from elsewhere that work and save reinventing the wheel!

### **Best piece of advice I wish I'd received:**

"Don't do 'O' level weaving, do RSA typing: something called computers are going to take off and be very much a part of your life"