

# Derbyshire General Practice Champions

## Dr Victoria Cogger

**Salaried GP (5 sessions)**

**Macmillan GP Facilitator Cancer Projects, SDCCG**

**Sexual Health Doctor, DCHS Integrated Sexual Health Services**

**GP Appraiser**

**Voluntary GP for Festival Medical Services**

**Regional Director Primary Care Women's Health Forum**



### **Career Journey:**

Ever since I can remember, I wanted to be a GP. My mother is a GP and I have been exposed to the profession since my childhood. At various points during my training I was tempted by other specialities, but I realised that a career in General Practice would encompass all of these and allow me to see a variety of different. I completed VTS in 2012 and immediately became a salaried GP.

Within my first year of qualifying I became a Macmillan GP Facilitator. I didn't know what this role would develop into, but really liked the idea of flexible, non-clinical work to improve services for patients with cancer. This fitted around my GP work and the role has really developed over the last 5-6 years, to include various projects of work in this time. I also became involved in a gynaecology clinical improvement group which involved developing pathways and services with local gynaecology colleagues & commissioners.

After my first 5 years in General Practice I decided to take a career break & spent a wonderful 8 months travelling around the USA with my husband.

Returning to Derby after our travels, I started a new role knowing that I wanted to develop my portfolio career. I returned to the Macmillan role and also became a GP appraiser. In particular I have always had an interest in women's health & gynaecology, completing my DRCOG & DFSRH during my GP training. I now do occasional sessions for the Sexual Health Service and have become involved with the Primary Care Women's Health Forum. I am now looking to develop a specialist interest in gynaecology.

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

I love the variety of being a portfolio GP and the fantastic learning opportunities it provides. I continue to see a wide variety of different problems in general practice while developing a specialist interest in gynaecology.

My various roles mean that I work closely with many different colleagues from primary and secondary care, as well as commissioners and managers. I really like the networking opportunities this brings and the insight into other areas of the NHS and voluntary sector. I have learned about the complexities of commissioning services and as a Macmillan GP Facilitator I feel I contribute an essential primary care perspective to discussions.

### **Best pieces of advice I received:**

Prior to my career break I sought out some professional coaching through the EMLA (East Midlands Leadership Academy) which really allowed me to look at my career priorities in preparation for my return to the UK.

I think the most important thing I have learned is to be open to new opportunities as they arise.

