



Luke has been working as a Maternity Care Assistant at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust since 2018.

Luke has shared his journey and provided advice to anyone considering a career in a midwifery setting.

LUKE SCARGILL: MATERNITY CARE ASSISTANT

How did you get into your current role as a Maternity Care Assistant?

My original career plan was to become a teacher, which led me to complete 3 A-Levels as well as a Degree, and Postgrad Certificate. Unfortunately I felt that teaching was not necessarily the right career for me, which led me to venture into a care setting. The company I worked for suffered some issues which led me to reassess wanting to work in the Private Sector and instead look into working in the NHS. I came across the advert for the role of Maternity Care Assistant (MCA) which immediately sparked my interest. I sent off my application without a second thought and was successful in obtaining an interview as well as the job itself!

What is your favourite part of your job?

When I first began working in my role, I really enjoyed being able to support women who were struggling to breastfeed, and helped them to feel confident enough that they could do this independently at home. This was very rewarding as I was able to use my own knowledge and skill set to benefit another person, which definitely brings about its own satisfactions. After gaining more experience and being able to work in other areas in Maternity I realised I also love the few moments after the birth. It is always a very emotional moment and it gives me goose bumps every time!

What challenges have you faced during your role?

One thing that definitely crossed my mind after accepting this job was the fact that I was male. However this has rarely presented itself as an issue, except for the few patients who have declined my care for religious reasons. I do often find that I receive more praise from being one of the very few men working within the Maternity setting.

Maternity does, and will always have, its own uniquely emotional challenges. The ultimate challenge is keeping it together especially during those heart-breaking days. At the NNUH we have a team of Professional Midwifery Advocates, who support Maternity staff during those difficult times and ensure our wellbeing is maintained– they're incredible!

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What surprised you/what were you unaware of until you began working in your job?

Something I had never considered was just how varied each woman's pregnancy journey can be. This may include the number of appointments women attend throughout their pregnancy, the professionals involved in their pregnancy care, how they choose to give birth, and even the birthing settings that are now available! Working in this role has definitely opened my eyes and banished any preconceptions I may have had.

What would you tell other people who may be considering a career in a Midwifery setting?

Make sure you are doing this for the right reasons, rather than just wanting to spend time with babies. A good Midwife or MCA works in Maternity because they care about and want to support women. I feel it is our job to be able to facilitate the kind of pregnancy and labour each woman wants without having any judgement or wanting to change their minds.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time? What would you like to achieve?

I am planning on starting my midwifery training next year. Had I known that I would enjoy working in Maternity as much as I do, then I would have applied straight after finishing college!

In 10 years time I would like to be fully qualified and have a good few years' of experience under my belt which will encourage me on my future journey!

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