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|  | | |  | Bethany Carter |
| Bethany qualified as a nurse in 2005. She is a highly experienced infection prevention (IP) specialist with a demonstrated experience of working in a variety of clinical settings and has a keen interest in compassionate and inclusive leadership, patient safety, education, and behavior change to influence good clinical practice. On retiring from the military after a 17-year career, Bethany joined the IP Team in Solent NHS Trust in January 2016. Her career at Solent saw her develop into the Head of IP role at the start of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. She is also currently the interim Lead Guardian for Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) and will take up the substantive role in September 2022.  Alongside her role as Head of IP, Bethany became an FTSU guardian in October 2020. Safety and supporting others are at the heart of everything she does and the FTSU role is essential to empower her to support and develop a speak up culture, enabling staff to feel confident and psychologically safe to raise concerns without fear of recrimination.    With core values of respect, kindness, and support, and due to the many challenges seen as a result to the pandemic, Bethany felt invigorated to apply for the Lead Guardian role. During these times she drew on her compassionate leadership skills to respond to staff fears and anxieties, with kindness and civility, whilst still acknowledging their concerns and worries. This was key to maintaining staff and patient safety and ultimately, through this difficult experience, Bethany believes the organisation has begun to see a positive impact on the overall culture, helping to create and promote a caring and supportive environment, embedding a sense of cohesion and belonging.  Prior to joining the NHS Bethany served in both the Royal Navy, were she qualified as a nurse, and subsequently as a Nursing Officer in the British Army. A career which spanned 17 years and saw her deploy on operations to both Afghanistan and Sierra Leone where she worked as a specialist in the Ebola Virus Disease Treatment Unit.  Bethany is an ambitious and determined leader who has developed a set of operational and strategic, management and leadership skills. Her drive is intrinsically linked to her inherent caring nature, and she firmly believes in creating a culture of openness and transparency to improve and develop the wider workforce to ensure positive experiences and outcomes for both staff and service users. |
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