**Mandy Mason: About me**

I was born in Dorset, now currently live in Somerset. My career started working for a community pharmacy in Chard. I worked there for a few years and then I met my husband and we moved to West Sussex where I continued to work in community pharmacy and completed my NVQ Level 3 Pharmaceutical Services training to become a Pharmacy Technician.

After moving back from West Sussex I worked at Yeovil District Hospital where I gained qualifications in Accuracy Checking (checking prescriptions), Medicines Management and Aseptic Services to add to my NVQ Level 3 for hospital services. I really enjoyed this time of my career; I was given the opportunity to develop which enabled me to move again after 5 years to work for the Medicines Management team at South Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT). The position involved developing and building relationships with local GP practices in the South Somerset area.

After a few years working for the PCT I was offered a position in one of the GP practices I had been working with as their Prescribing Support for the practice, this again was a new role which I enjoyed developing within practice. I stayed at the practice for a year before moving into a large practice in Yeovil to take up the post of Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF)/IT and Prescribing Manager. The practice gave me plenty of opportunities to develop and I was able to complete my Medicines Management Degree at Portsmouth University. I built a lot of relationships with many organisations in Somerset and beyond. Building those relationships made the transition easier and combined all the skills I had developed to make a fulfilling role within general practice.

Whilst still working at the practice I started to work with a close colleague in the Taunton area working independently for the Somerset Local Medical Committee (LMC). We were and still are part of the Resilience Team to help practices who may need support with a variety of issues.

I have now joined the LMC as Deputy Executive Director supporting Jill Hellens and the team. This is the next chapter in my career and I am looking forward to the next journey.